

Cabinet

Date: **19 March 2026**

Time: **2.00pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

Members: **Councillors:** Sankey (Chair), Taylor (Deputy Chair), Alexander, Allen, Daniel, Miller, Muten, Robins, Rowkins and Williams

Contact: **John Peel**
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Chief Executive
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 11 March 2026

AGENDA

Part One

Page

136 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) **Declarations of Interest:** Statements by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, outlining the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note: Any item appearing in Part Two of the agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the press and public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls and online in the Constitution at Part 3E

137 MINUTES

To Follow

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.

138 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

139 CALL OVER

140 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:**
To receive any petitions presented by members of the public.
- (b) **Written Questions:**
To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 13 March 2026.
- (c) **Deputations:**
To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 10am on the 9 March 2026.

141 ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

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To consider any written questions

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Contact Officer: Melissa Francis
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Contact Officer: Owen McElroy
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Contact Officer: Joanne Templeman
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Ward Affected: All Wards

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Kempton; Whitehawk & Marina*
- 156 MIDDLE STREET- STATUTORY NOTICES**
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Ward Affected: All Wards

PART TWO

157 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

To consider whether the items listed in Part Two of the agenda and decisions thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

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The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fourth working day before the meeting.

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Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact John Peel, (01273 291058, email john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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- Paint spray or similar items;
- Padlocks, chains and climbing gear;

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- Banners, placards and flags or similar items.

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- interrupts the proceedings
- acts in a way that impacts the proper and orderly conduct of the meeting

In the interest of order during a meeting, the Mayor/Chair may suspend or adjourn a meeting for any length of time they decide.

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In most meetings, there are no incidents and Council is not disturbed. We hope this continues so there is no need for the Mayor or any Chair of a meeting to take these actions.

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- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 140(a)

Subject: Petitions

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Director- Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: John Peel
Tel: 01273 291058
Email: john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet note the petition.

3. Context and background information

3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 7 people at the time of publication:

1) Bampfield Street & Hurst Crescent Controlled Parking Zone

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to introduce controlled parking zones (CPZs), also known as residents' parking schemes, on Bampfield Street and Hurst Crescent in South Portslade. These residential streets currently experience significant overcrowding from vehicles, making it increasingly difficult for local residents to park near their homes. Many residents, including those with only one vehicle, struggle to find parking due to some individuals owning multiple vehicles, alongside regular use of the area by tradespeople and commuters who park for free before travelling into Brighton. The lack of parking controls places an unfair burden on residents and negatively impacts daily life. Introducing controlled parking and resident permits would help prioritise parking for local households, reduce congestion, and improve fairness and accessibility on these streets.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Agenda Item 144

Cabinet

Subject: Modernising our recycling centre

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

Lead Officer: Corporate Director- Operations

Contact Officer: Satti Sidhu

Email: satti.sidhu@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000.

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report provides an updated assessment of the operational performance, capacity limitations, and future development requirements of the Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). As a critical component of the council's waste and recycling infrastructure, the MRF plays a central role in meeting statutory recycling obligations, managing the changing composition of household waste, and supporting the city's broader carbon reduction and circular economy objectives. This report presents the operational and contractual case for investing in upgrades to the Hollingdean MRF and to seek Cabinet approval for the required changes, including authority to agree and execute related contractual variations.

1.2 The Council's ambition and Council Plan to deliver a Better Brighton & Hove for All, includes a mission to deliver an accessible, clean and sustainable city. This includes managing and minimising our waste and increasing the % of waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting. The development of the facility is key in supporting delivery of these aims.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approves the procurement and installation by Veolia of a new optical sorter, chutes, conveyors and bays, along with the associated adaptation works required at the Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility.

- 2.2 That Cabinet approves a capital budget of £2.3m to be funded by PWLB borrowing.
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Corporate Director for City Operations, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Net Zero , to finalise, approve and enter into any required contractual amendments with Veolia, including agreeing detailed terms of all necessary Deeds of Variation.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Hollingdean MRF was constructed in 2008 under the Privately Financed Initiative and Integrated Waste Management Services Contract with East Sussex County Council and Veolia. A comprehensive suite of technical documents produced during the original development of the Hollingdean Integrated Waste Facility provides a robust evidence base confirming that the site remains the most suitable location for the city's materials recovery operations. The site was selected following an extensive site-search and shortlisting process undertaken as part of the initial procurement and planning stages. This included a detailed assessment undertaken by Veolia, which examined multiple alternative locations against operational, spatial, environmental and logistical criteria. The shortlisting process was transparent, methodical and grounded in measurable requirements. Further independent assessment by Jacobs, examined the feasibility of an alternative location, also concluded that Hollingdean offered clear advantages in terms of deliverability and operational suitability.
- 3.2 The site was specifically designed to accommodate the operational needs of a modern MRF, including the capacity to adapt to evolving waste streams. Its configuration allows for efficient vehicle movements, appropriate separation and processing areas.
- 3.3 Since construction the complexity of packaging has increased, a wider variety of plastic polymers has entered the waste stream, and participation in recycling services has grown. The council has been expanding the range of materials collected for recycling, and further materials are to be added imminently. Consequently, the MRF is now processing both higher quantities and a more diverse range of materials than it was originally designed to handle.
- 3.4 The facility currently processes approximately 17,500 tonnes of dry mixed recyclables each year. The council is continuing to expand the range of materials collected, meaning that investment is essential to maintain safe, compliant and resilient operations into the future. The facility was designed to process paper, card, steel and aluminium cans and plastic bottles. Glass is collected separately and delivered to Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station for onward sale. Equipment dating from the original 2008 installation is increasingly reliant on manual picking to maintain output quality.

- 3.5 The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024 require Councils to collect a set range of materials. BHCC began collecting pots, tubs and trays in June 2025 and will soon begin collections of cartons and foil. Additional picking staff were introduced in June 2025 to ensure that pots, tubs and trays made their way into the plastic outputs and did not contaminate other output streams.
- 3.6 This dependence on manual work may increase health and safety risks, limits throughput, reduces overall efficiency, and constrains the capacity to accommodate new materials that will be required under national reforms. MRFs typically use a mixture of manual sorting along with advanced automation, including optical sorting, ballistic separation and eddy current systems, to try to minimise manual handling and improve both safety and material quality.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 Maintaining the current infrastructure would restrict the facility's future capacity and prevent the introduction of new recyclable materials that BHCC is required to collect through The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024, without third party intervention. For these reasons, this option is not recommended. This option presents risks of the council not meeting its statutory obligation and limiting the range of materials residents can present for recycling. It also risks delays to the organisation's wider environmental goals.
- 4.2 In order to meet the statutory obligations and ensure the facility can cope with new materials, technical feasibility work has been undertaken presenting options to accept new materials.

Assessment took place on whether additional manual pickers could be placed in the existing cabins to separate the new materials. This option carried significant health and safety risks for the number of manual pickers required as well as additional operational costs on an on-going basis. This option is not feasible due to the health and safety risks highlighted due to the space constraints in the facility.

- 4.3 Further assessment took place to install new equipment and adapt the facility. A full adaptation was explored which would replace all of the equipment in the facility and completely modernise the facility within the current space constraints. This option does not represent value for money as the majority of equipment is still within operational life and would require significant downtime of the facility to enable the works.
- 4.4 A basic adaptation is the preferred option which involves targeted investment with the procurement and installation of a new optical sorter, conveyors, chutes and bays. This new machinery will automate the sorting of materials improving both the capture rate and the quality of recyclable outputs. Complementary upgrades, including new conveyor systems, chutes and bays to enable the capture of foil and cartons, would further enhance material flow and operational reliability. These upgrades would occur

concurrent to the optical sorter being fitted, to limit the facility downtime. This investment reduces the reliance on significant additional manual picking. It would also increase the facility's resilience to rising tonnages and provide the capability to process additional materials required under national policy. This option provides strong benefits in terms of safety, environmental performance, compliance and overall value for money.

- 4.5 The timeline for the adaptation work will include completing the necessary legal work to vary the deed of contract, design the facility equipment requirements in detail, procure the new equipment and arrange for the installation.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 This report contains detail on internal infrastructure adaptation work to an existing facility and not related to any service changes, and no consultation with the community was carried out.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 Approval is sought for £2.3m capital investment to procure a new optical sorter and undertake associated equipment upgrades at the MRF. The most cost-effective financing approach is borrowing, which minimises short-term pressure on the General Fund (GF). Based on a 25-year asset life and an assumed interest rate of 4.5%, the estimated annual financing cost is £0.130m. The actual borrowing rate will be confirmed at the point funding is secured.
- 6.2 It is proposed that borrowing costs for the first two financial years are met by Waste PFI Reserve. From 2028/29, ongoing financing costs will be incorporated within the GF budget through appropriate pressure funding.
- 6.3 The proposal includes £0.180m per annum to fund six manual pickers. These costs would be met from the Waste PFI Reserve until 2032/33, after which the GF will need to absorb the cost. At that point, further pressure funding may be required.
- 6.4 The Waste PFI contract concludes in 2033, at which point the reserve must be in balance. Current modelling indicates that, after accounting for borrowing costs and picker funding, the reserve will show an estimated £2.9m deficit. To eliminate this deficit, an annual contribution of approximately £0.580m over five years, starting in 2028/29, would be required.
- 6.5 If the full £2.3m capital investment were instead funded directly from the Waste PFI Reserve in 2026/27, borrowing costs would be avoided. However, this would increase the projected reserve deficit to £5.3m by 2033, requiring a significantly higher annual contribution of £1.060m, an increase of £0.480m compared with the proposed borrowing-led approach.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted:
26/02/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty upon a Waste Collection Authority to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area. Section 45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended by Section 57 of the Environment Act 2021) requires all recyclable household waste to be collected separately from other household waste, for recycling or composting at least once a week.
- 7.2 The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 places a duty on Waste Disposal Authorities to ensure that waste which is collected separately is not later mixed with other material with different properties.
- 7.3 The new legislative requirements to collect the new materials separately for recycling constitutes a Qualifying Change in Law (QCiL) under the PFI Contract with Veolia for which a variation to the contract can be agreed and made in line with the recommendations in this report.
- 7.4 The recommendations in this report are in keeping with the above duties and powers.
- 7.5 In exercising the delegated authority to vary the Veolia disposal contract it will be necessary to comply with the requirements of the relevant procurement legislation.

Name of lawyer consulted: Siobhan Fry Date consulted (27/02/26):

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The principal risks associated with maintaining the status quo relate to equipment failure and contamination related disposal costs. Conversely, the proposed investment offers opportunities to increase material recovery, generate additional revenue, improve safety and future proof the facility in line with emerging national requirements.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 Reducing the need for manual handling and improving the reliability of equipment will support the creation of safer and more accessible working conditions for all staff employed at the facility.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 Investment in modernisation will improve recycling capture rates, reduce carbon emissions associated with disposal of contaminated materials, and produce higher quality recyclate suitable for circular economy markets. It will

also strengthen compliance with national waste reforms and increase the facility's resilience to future changes in material composition.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 There are no public health and wellbeing implications arising from the works to the facility which operates within environmental regulations.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 Procurement activity would be conducted in compliance with contractual and regulatory requirement, and as part of the Integrated Waste Management Services Contract.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 None

14. Conclusion

14.1 The Hollingdean MRF is an essential component of the city's recycling infrastructure. Having been designed in 2008 for a very different waste environment, it now operates beyond its original design assumptions. Installing a new optical sorter and reconfiguring the MRF modernizes the facility, reducing safety risks, increasing throughput, and ensuring compliance with expanding national recycling requirements. Approval to proceed with this investment is therefore strongly recommended.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 145

Subject: Environmental Enforcement Service

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

Lead Officer: Corporate Director- Operations

Contact Officer: Louise Lawrence

Email: Louise.m.lawrence@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: No

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1 This report seeks approval for a proportionate, prevention-focused Environmental Enforcement model, including a revised Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) schedule for minor fly-tipping and littering, refocusing the team to work proactively alongside our city's businesses, and other supporting measures (e.g. CCTV) to ensure our enforcement activity is focused on more serious offences. The proposals support the delivery of our Council Plan, and a city to be proud of with cleaner places, community wellbeing and inclusive place-making. As a council, and in response to feedback from our residents and businesses, we are shifting our emphasis from punitive action to positive behaviour change and intelligence-led enforcement.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approves a set of changes that will introduce a fairer system of environmental enforcement, with a shift towards early engagement, prevention and collaboration with residents and businesses to improve the look and feel of the city, whilst ensuring a robust approach to tackle persistent and more serious offences.

2.2 That Cabinet approves the introduction from 1st April 2026 of a lower-tier, proportionate FPN schedule for minor fly-tipping (residential and commercial) and littering, as set out in appendix A.

2.3 That Cabinet approves taking the high-profile none payers to court, to get a clear message out to businesses, that they have a legal duty to ensure that their waste is disposed of correctly and that failure to do so could result in them having a criminal record.

2.4 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Corporate Director, City Operations, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental

Services, to finalise operational policies and procedures, and to make minor amendments to the FPN schedule within national parameters.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Environmental Enforcement Service is responsible for tackling a range of environmental offences including littering, fly-tipping, waste duty of care breaches and waste container offences.
- 3.2 The Environmental Enforcement Framework has been in place since 2022 and was last substantively updated in 2023. Since then, several strategic, operational and policy changes have created a need to refresh the approach to ensure it remains proportionate, sustainable and aligned with the Council's priorities. In particular, the council has listened to feedback from residents and businesses who feel the current system penalises minor issues disproportionately, whilst not having sufficient focus on more serious issues of environmental crimes that significantly impact the look and feel of our place. Feedback from businesses has also been that the council has been too quick to issue fines when there was instead an opportunity to support and educate.
- 3.3 The previous Framework Update (2023) highlighted the need to balance deterrence with fairness, introduce clearer pathways for early engagement, and strengthen evidence gathering to support investigations. The review builds on that direction of travel and will accelerate the changing model for our environmental enforcement service.
- 3.4 At a national level, DEFRA's updated guidance on Fixed Penalty Notices and environmental crime enforcement has emphasised the importance of proportionality, early intervention, and graduated enforcement responses. This aligns with a broader shift towards supporting behaviour change and away from over reliance on punitive measures, especially for minor waste-related offences. Councils are increasingly adopting lower-tier penalties, early-payment incentives and improved evidence gathering (such as integrated CCTV) to increase fairness and payment rates while retaining the ability to take robust action against persistent or deliberate offenders.
- 3.5 An independent Enforcement Review completed in 2025 highlighted several structural issues within the existing model, including a high proportion of FPNs issued for minor, one-off residential incidents, limited early engagement with residents and businesses, and a lack of supporting evidence infrastructure such as CCTV. The review also identified that a relatively small number of repeat and commercial offenders account for a disproportionately large share of environmental harm and continuing offences, including non-payment of fines, which requires court action to progress.
- 3.6 The review found that the current approach does not align strongly enough with the council's strategic priorities, including our Net Zero ambition, the City Environment Modernisation Programme, and the wider shift toward community-centred, preventative public services. A revised, more

proportionate enforcement model is therefore required to support behavioural change, encourage voluntary compliance, and enable the service to operate in a financially sustainable way.

- 3.7 Benchmarking with comparable councils shows a growing trend towards tiered FPN schedules, early-payment incentives and integrated CCTV and intelligence-led approaches to improve fairness and recovery. These models focus on positive behaviour change, ensuring that punitive action is reserved for repeat or deliberate offences, while still maintaining visible deterrence and community confidence.
- 3.8 Local data indicates that minor fly-tipping and littering make up the majority of offences but are often low-level behaviours that can be addressed effectively through early intervention, education and clearer communication. Introducing a lower-tier FPN option for these offences supports proportionality and reduces the risk of disproportionate impact, particularly on vulnerable residents and small businesses
- 3.9 To improve outcomes, the proposed model integrates a prevention-focused approach with strengthened enforcement where necessary. This includes removing unnecessary barriers to payment, introducing business-facing Environmental Compliance Surgeries, and improving investigation through access to the corporate CCTV suite. Together, these changes will enhance the council's capacity to tackle persistent offenders, and ensure that enforcement activity is fair, targeted and financially sustainable, and for more serious offences, supported by legal action where necessary.
- 3.10 A core part of the preventative work would involve contacting the large number of businesses identified as not currently have a Duty of Care Transfer Notice – a legal requirement – and supporting them to ensure they have appropriate provision in place. We would also seek to improve the advice and guidance provided when new businesses register for business rates in order to reduce the number of offences committed.
- 3.11 The proposed enforcement model reflects the learning framework principles by:
 - introducing Environmental Compliance Surgeries to support businesses before issues escalate
 - strengthening officer training on conversational compliance, de-escalation and early intervention
 - improving data analysis and intelligence-led deployment
 - reducing punitive responses for first-time, low-level incidents
 - applying structured learning from the 2023 Enforcement Review, including the findings on payment barriers and repeat offender patterns
- 3.12 This ensures the service becomes not only more effective but more reflective, responsive and community-centred in line with the Learning Framework.
- 3.13 Since the last framework update in 2023, evidence has shown:

- a substantial proportion of FPNs were issued for minor, one-off residential incidents
- some fines were disproportionately high relative to the behaviour
- commercial and repeat offenders are responsible for a high share of unpaid penalties
- the current structure does not sufficiently differentiate between low-level and high-impact offences.

3.14 The revised fines structure seeks to:

- introduce proportionality through a lower-tier option for minor offences
- retain deterrence for repeat or deliberate waste crime
- reduce the risk of disproportionate impacts on vulnerable residents
- improve payment rates by reducing financial barriers
- focus officer time on higher-risk offenders rather than minor, one-off incidents

3.15 This supports fairer outcomes, strengthens community confidence, and better aligns enforcement activity with strategic priorities.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

Option	Description	Impact / Considerations
4.1 No change	Maintain current approach	Would result in continued concerns raised with the council about proportionality.
4.2 Early settlement (50% discount across the board)	Apply a universal 50% discount for early payment.	Improves proportionality but doesn't make the further changes that shift the service significantly towards prevention and focus on more serious crimes.
4.3 Cautions for first-time offences	Issue cautions rather than penalties for first-time offenders.	Significantly reduces revenue, improves proportionality but doesn't make the further changes that shift the service significantly towards prevention and focus on more serious crimes.
4.4 Preferred option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Environmental Enforcement Team to four officers with greater focus on preventative activity. • Introduce lower-tier FPNs for minor fly-tipping. • Retain 50% early-payment discount for littering. • Expand CCTV capability and 	Supports a fair, proportionate and prevention-focused approach to tackling environmental crime.

Option	Description	Impact / Considerations
	strengthen targeted prosecution pathways.	

- 4.1 A stronger prevention and behaviour-change emphasis will be embedded within daily operations, including the use of early intervention, education and de-escalation for first-time or low-level offences, and intelligence-led deployment to target higher-risk locations and repeat offenders. This supports the council’s aim to become a learning organisation, reducing reliance on punitive measures while still maintaining visible deterrence.
- 4.2 The model introduces enhanced engagement with local businesses through dedicated *Environmental Compliance Surgeries*. These sessions will provide practical guidance on waste duty of care, legal responsibilities, and how to avoid common pitfalls that lead to enforcement action. They will also help clarify that waste-related offences fall under Criminal Law, meaning that cases must be taken to court before any formal action or penalties can be imposed. By improving understanding of this process, the surgeries create an opportunity to resolve issues earlier, reduce misunderstanding about the implications of non-compliance, and encourage compliance and avoid legal action.
- 4.3 Financial modelling indicates that this combined approach—lower-tier penalties, improved engagement, strengthened prevention, alongside projected CCTV income uplift, is forecast to rebalance the enforcement budget sustainably

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 Engagement has taken place with local businesses via meetings with North Laine traders, who have been able to feed in their views about how the current service operates, and how this impacts the relationship between businesses and the council, who all have shared aims to keep our city clean and address more serious environmental crime. This feedback has driven the changes being made, alongside the priorities in the Council Plan to ensure we have a clean, safe and accessible city.
- 5.2 Engagement with our Environmental Enforcement Service staff is ongoing, alongside engagement with our recognised Trade Unions as we discuss changes to the service to support the change of approach outlined in the report. The feedback of the team has been fully embedded in the changes, as we seek to co-design the service with residents and staff.
- 5.3 Wider staff, resident and business engagement will continue as operational policies are finalised.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 Environmental Enforcement is forecasting a £0.141m overspend in 2025/26, compared with the budgeted deficit of £0.051m. This position is driven primarily by a significant income shortfall of £0.242m, partially offset by £0.152m of reduced expenditure. The continued under-recovery of income reflects lower activity levels than assumed in the budget and represents an ongoing structural pressure for the service.
- 6.2 For 2026/27, the approved budget includes a small deficit of £0.027m, based on planned expenditure of £0.586m and income of £0.559m. The latest forecast indicates a £0.135m overspend before mitigations, with the variance again attributable to reduced income performance (forecast £0.285m). Although expenditure is forecast to be £0.166m lower than budget, this does not fully offset the reduced income base.
- 6.3 The service has identified £0.135m of mitigations for 2026/27 to eliminate the forecast overspend. These comprise:
- £0.075m new income from the introduction of CCTV enforcement,
 - £0.060m from improving the collection rate of fines
- 6.4 Delivery of these mitigations would return the service to a balanced financial position for 2026/27. However, there are material delivery risks, including the timing of CCTV implementation, operational readiness, and the achievability of the assumed improvement in payment rates. Any slippage or under-delivery would result in an in-year budget pressure and may require further corrective action.
- 6.5 Without sustained improvement in income recovery, the service will continue to face structural financial pressures that may need to be addressed through future budget-setting processes or service redesign.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted:
03.03.2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 FPN levels for relevant environmental offences must comply with national legislation and guidance. The proposed lower-tier schedule aligns with national parameters, including DEFRA minimum discounted penalties. Legal Services will confirm compliance and drafting of any necessary amendments to the Fees & Charges schedule and enforcement policy.
- 7.2 Reference is made to CCTV. This will have to be assessed on a case by case basis. CCTV can be use for evidence gathering if the evidence is neither covert and/or is ancillary to the CCTV use. If the cameras are marked and clear it is not covert. Covert surveillance is not permissible under the Regulation of Investigative Powers AC 2000 for a crime that carries less than 6 months in prison. Covert surveillance always has to be authorized. This is likely to include getting a warrant from the Magistrates Court.

7.3 2.1 and 2.2 are both lawful and permissible. Legal can assist with 2.2 and if any policy revisions are more significant than anticipated then the point can be brought back to cabinet for approval.

Name of lawyer consulted: Simon Court Date consulted (10/03/2026):

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 Payments from fines don't improve – Mitigation: retain early-payment discount; targeted follow-up; stronger court pathways; data-led prioritisation.
- 8.2 CCTV and recovery income below forecast – Mitigation: phased implementation; monthly performance review; reallocate capacity to high-yield hotspots and illegal operators.
- 8.3 Disproportional impacts of enforcement – Mitigation: lower-tier penalties for minor offences; education and de-escalation for first-time/low-level cases; monitor outcomes via Equalities Impact Assessment.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 A review of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA), drawing on learning from the 2023 assessment, indicates that environmental enforcement activity can affect some groups disproportionately. These include residents on low incomes, people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, people with limited English or low digital literacy, and some minority ethnic groups who may already experience higher levels of enforcement nationally. The decline in payment rates under the current model increases the risk of escalation into court processes, which can further disadvantage these groups.
- 9.2 The proposed enforcement model has been designed to reduce disproportionate impacts through a prevention-focused approach. Introduction of a lower-tier penalty for minor offences, retention of the 50% early-payment discount, and increased emphasis on education and early intervention all reduce financial burden and avoid unnecessary escalation. Improvements to communication materials including the use of plain English, visual guidance, and translated or accessible formats will support residents with additional language or literacy needs. Business-facing Environmental Compliance Surgeries will provide proactive support to smaller or more vulnerable businesses to help them understand and meet waste-duty obligations.
- 9.3 Access to support will form a key part of the model. Where appropriate, officers will signpost vulnerable residents to relevant council services or advice organisations, ensuring that enforcement remains proportionate and sensitive to individual circumstances. Intelligence-led deployment will help ensure that enforcement activity is targeted at high-impact behaviours and repeat offenders, rather than concentrated disproportionately in specific neighbourhoods.

9.4 Equalities impacts will be monitored through quarterly performance reviews, including analysis of payment rates, prosecution pathways, and geographic patterns of enforcement. Where protected characteristics can be captured lawfully and proportionately, anonymised data will be used to identify trends and respond promptly to emerging risks. The full EIA will be finalised before implementation of the revised model in April 2026 and reviewed again after the first year of operation.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 Enhanced deterrence of fly-tipping and littering supports a cleaner local environment, reduces waste management burdens, and contributes to wider climate and place-making objectives. Any CCTV-related procurement will consider lifecycle and energy impacts

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 Cleaner public spaces and reduced environmental crime contribute positively to physical and mental well-being and support safer, more inclusive neighborhoods.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 None

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 The Council has a statutory duty under s17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to prevent crime and disorder across its services. The recommendations in this report directly support this duty by strengthening deterrence, improving intelligence-led enforcement and reducing environmental crime such as fly-tipping, littering and duty-of-care offences.

13.2 Evidence from the Enforcement Review shows that the current model is increasingly unsustainable because of low payment rates and limited visibility, while a small number of persistent offenders account for a disproportionate share of unpaid fines. Targeted enforcement, CCTV-supported investigation and a strengthened prosecution pathway are identified as measures that will reduce repeat offending and support community safety.

13.3 The preferred option also incorporates a prevention-focused approach, including working with residents and businesses, providing education and early intervention, and offering Environmental Compliance Surgeries for businesses to reduce unintentional non-compliance. This supports long-term behavioural change and reduces the conditions that allow environmental crime to occur.

- 13.4 The introduction of a Top 20 Unpaid FPN Recovery provides an additional structured approach to tackling repeat offenders, including prioritised case progression to court, enhanced follow-up, and alignment with corporate debt recovery processes, all of which help prevent re-offending and strengthen community confidence.
- Overall, the proposals contribute positively to community safety, neighbourhood appearance, public confidence and reduced antisocial behaviour.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 The Environmental Enforcement Review demonstrates a clear and urgent need to modernise the service in response to feedback from businesses and the limitations of the current enforcement model. A prevention-focused, proportionate approach supported by lower-tier penalties, a right-sized workforce, CCTV evidence gathering, strengthened prosecution pathways and proactive engagement with residents and businesses provides a balanced and sustainable solution.
- 14.2 The recommended option improves fairness, reduces disproportionality, enhances public confidence, and supports cleaner, safer neighbourhoods, while moving the service toward a financially sustainable position. Approving the recommendations will allow the Council to implement the revised model from 1 April 2026, ensuring that the Environmental Enforcement Service operates in a financially responsible way, prevention-led, community-focused and aligned with corporate priorities.

Appendices

1. Proposed Lower-Tier FPN Schedule

Appendix A – Proposed Lower-Tier FPN Schedule

Fly-tipping – *lower-tier schedule (subject to statutory parameters):

Offence Description	Residential (£)	Commercial (£)
*Single, small fly-tipped item / one cardboard box	200	300
*One-to-two 80 litre sacks, or loose equivalent	300	400
Three-to-five 80 litre sacks, or loose equivalent	400	600
Six-to-seven 80 litre sacks, or loose equivalent	500	800
Eight-plus 80 litre sacks, or loose equivalent	600	1000
A vehicle load (tipper)	Prosecution	Prosecution

Littering FPN

Offence	50% Discount (paid within 10 days)	Standard (paid within 11–28 days)
Littering	75	150

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Minimum discounted penalty (DEFRA)</u>
Littering	£50
Graffiti	£50
Fly-posting	£50
Unauthorised flyering	£50
Fly-tipping	£120
Household duty of care	£120
Failure to produce DOC	£180

Industrial and commercial waste receptacle offence	£60
Failing to show waste documents	£120

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 146

Subject: A Cleaner City Centre

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

Lead Officer: Corporate Director- Operations

Contact Officer: Melissa Francis

Email: melissa.francis@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Regency; St Peter's & North Laine; Kemptown (small western section)

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The Council Plan sets out a commitment to improve the look and feel of Brighton & Hove by delivering an accessible, clean and sustainable city. This report outlines the approach taken to address concerns raised by residents, businesses and partners regarding the appearance and cleanliness of the city centre. It details the introduction of a dedicated City Centre Manager, the outcomes of a Test & Learn pilot between Brighton Station and the seafront, the development of an enhanced graffiti removal approach, and the creation of an overnight cleansing team to support deep-cleaning activity.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet agrees to note progress to date on the Station to the Sea – Test & Learn Pilot.

2.2 Cabinet agrees to endorse the continued focus provided by the City Centre Manager.

2.3 Cabinet agrees to approve the introduction of an overnight cleansing service for the city centre from May 2026.

3. Context and background information

3.1 Brighton & Hove's city centre is a vital commercial, cultural and visitor hub. Increasing concerns from the Business Improvement District (BID), the Destination Experience Group (DEG), the Hoteliers Association and

- individual businesses have highlighted the need for a more focused approach to maintaining central areas.
- 3.2 Historically, responsibility for the city centre sat within a broader Street Cleansing Operations Manager remit stretching from Kemp Town in the east to Sackville Road in the west, covering the seafront, London Road and Hove, and managing up to 60 staff at peak, limiting the Council's ability to address the challenges of high-footfall areas. As visitor numbers and night-time economy pressures grew, it became clear that the needs of the city centre required dedicated leadership and a one-council, partnership-led approach.
- 3.3 To respond to these concerns, Environmental Services has developed a coordinated programme of improvement centered around three components: the appointment of a dedicated City Centre Manager; the implementation of the Station to the Sea Test & Learn pilot; and the introduction of an overnight cleansing team. These actions form a coherent programme designed to restore confidence in the city centre's presentation and ensure that high footfall areas are maintained to a consistently higher standard.

City Centre Manager

- 3.4 The City Centre Manager, appointed in September 2025, plays a pivotal role in bringing greater visibility, coordination and accountability to the management of the central area and is already delivering visible results. The role focuses exclusively on the city centre and provides a single leadership presence responsible for convening multiple teams supporting the delivery of a 'One Council' approach, building partnerships with businesses and external organisations, and ensuring that issues are addressed quickly and effectively.
- 3.5 The introduction of this role has brought a renewed and much-needed focus to the heart of the city, enabling a more coordinated, proactive and place-based approach to managing Brighton & Hove's busiest commercial and visitor areas. Working across multiple council teams and in close partnership with businesses, the Business Improvement District (BID), the Hoteliers Association and community groups, the role has significantly strengthened joint working arrangements and improved the speed, quality and accountability of operational responses. Daily site inspections, improved reporting pathways and hands-on engagement with businesses ensure that issues are identified earlier, resolved more quickly and tackled collaboratively.
- 3.6 Since being established, the role has already delivered substantial improvements. These include the installation of new double bins and cigarette waste facilities; extensive repainting of communal bins, utility boxes and signage; enhanced graffiti removal programmes; and a strengthened jet washing and cleaning regime across key pedestrian routes, including Brighton Station and the Clocktower. Repairs and refurbishments have been completed across public spaces, abandoned bicycle removal is now fully up to date, and a series of action plans have been developed to guide ongoing improvements in areas such as the Clocktower, Gloucester Road, North Road and Regency Ward.

- 3.7 External partnerships with the BID, the Hoteliers Association, Network Rail and volunteer groups have strengthened joint problem solving and introduced opportunities for sponsorship. Trials of innovative equipment are supporting future focused service improvements. Collectively, these achievements demonstrate the impact of a dedicated City Centre Manager and the value of sustained, coordinated oversight in maintaining a cleaner, safer and more welcoming city centre.

Station to the Sea – Test & Learn Pilot

- 3.8 A Test & Learn pilot between Brighton Station and the seafront was delivered to test new cleansing approaches and intensify maintenance work using existing resources. This area serves as a major gateway for visitors and residents. The pilot has produced significant improvements that have been well received by stakeholders. Forty new bins, ten cigarette bins have been installed, and fifty-seven new communal refuse bins will shortly be introduced. Routine cleansing was enhanced through increased jet washing and hot spot treatments, and the graffiti team removed more than one thousand stickers. Street furniture such as benches and railings were refurbished or repainted, signage was cleaned or renewed, and the entire pilot area was weeded and jet washed.
- 3.9 These improvements have raised baseline cleansing standards and demonstrated the effectiveness of a focused, place-based approach. Detailed action plans have been established to replicate this model elsewhere in the city centre, ensuring that the pilot's benefits are extended and sustained.

Graffiti Management and Public Realm Improvements

- 3.10 Graffiti remains one of the most visible issues affecting public confidence in the appearance of the city centre. To address this, the Council is implementing an enhanced strategic approach to graffiti removal.
- 3.11 A business case has been developed to introduce a commercial graffiti removal service to generate income for reinvestment. Advanced LaserTec equipment is being procured to enable faster and more efficient removal, particularly in high impact locations. A zoning model is being introduced to prioritise graffiti removal in areas where it has the greatest visual impact, and a more coordinated approach to street art management is being developed, recognising the role of high-quality artwork in deterring tagging.

Overnight Cleansing Teams

- 3.12 To support deeper, more transformative improvements to the city centre, an overnight cleansing team will be introduced from May 2026. This team is designed to complement the daytime Street Cleansing service rather than replace it. Daytime Street Cleansing remains responsible for essential daily duties including clearing litter, removing detritus, responding to fly tips, cleaning biohazards and maintaining hygiene and safety standards. Given

these operational pressures and the consistently high daytime footfall in central areas, Street Cleansing teams have limited capacity to undertake the intensive deep cleaning work required to significantly improve the city's overall presentation.

- 3.13 An overnight team will bridge this gap by delivering jet washing, deep cleaning of hard surfaces, extensive sticker and graffiti removal, cleaning and repainting of signage, and refurbishment of railings and street furniture. Working at night allows access to areas that cannot be effectively treated during the day. Intensive activity will be concentrated in one area at a time, bringing it up to a significantly improved standard before moving on to the next. Over time, this phased approach will deliver a visible and sustained improvement across the central area.
- 3.14 This model reflects practice from councils such as Westminster who operate overnight teams and responds directly to feedback from businesses and partners. Noise impacts will be carefully managed through scheduling work in locations where nighttime activity is already present or where disruption can be minimised. The introduction of an overnight cleansing team is expected to significantly improve the city's overall appearance.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 An alternative option to introduce a daytime cleansing team was considered but rejected for several operational and strategic reasons. Daytime delivery would significantly limit the effectiveness of deep cleaning activity due to exceptionally high footfall in the city centre. Street Cleansing teams already operate under substantial pressure during the day, undertaking essential statutory and safety critical duties including clearing litter and detritus, responding to fly tips, managing biohazards, addressing urgent cleansing reports, and supporting events and reactive incidents. The service is not resourced to undertake focused deep cleaning work during daytime hours. Doing so would require removing staff from their core duties, which would directly reduce daytime coverage.
- 4.2 If the Council were to deliver an overnight service it would need to establish additional management and supervisory capacity overnight to ensure staff welfare, quality control, and appropriate deployment. There are also significant risks relating to recruitment and retention, which would place additional pressure on existing managers who already oversee a large and complex operational service. Managing ongoing staffing turnover, covering absences, and maintaining resilience for an overnight team would draw managerial focus away from essential daytime operations and strategic service improvement work.
- 4.3 A contractor can provide a more efficient and sustainable option by supplying the necessary staffing stability, take responsibility for recruitment and turnover, and potentially introduce specialist equipment and machinery that enhances productivity. This will allow the City Centre Manager to focus on delivering ongoing service improvements aligned with the Council's

investment in the city, while ensuring that overnight operations are targeted effectively to achieve maximum impact.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 Engagement has taken place with the BID, DEG, Hoteliers Association, Small Business Association and other stakeholders through Visit Britain networking events who represent the views of their members. Residents have provided feedback on the need to improve the appearance of the Public Realm through Ward Councillors.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 A £250k recurring budget was allocated as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process. The programme is anticipated to last 3 years at which point the programme and budget requirement will be reviewed.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted 11/02/2026.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The report makes a number of recommendations relating to the improvement of the appearance and cleanliness of the city centre. These are executive functions, and are matters reserved for Cabinet in accordance with Part 2E of the Constitution as they are key decisions.
- 7.2 The council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (section 89) to ensure, so far as is practicable, that its roads and pavements and public land are kept free of litter and refuse, and as regards roads and pavements to be kept clean. These measures will assist the council in meeting this duty.
- 7.3 The council also has a duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment). The report sets out measures that enable it to demonstrate how it is considering this duty.
- 7.4 The Equality Act 2010 states that, when carrying out their functions, public bodies must have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not (Equality Act 2010, Section 149). The report sets out the positive impacts of the actions being taken on different protected characteristics and has not identified any negative impacts.

Name of lawyer consulted: Allan Wells Date consulted (25/02/2026)

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 Failure to endorse the proposed approach presents significant reputational, economic and operational risks for the city. Key partners including the BID, Destination Experience Group, Hoteliers Association and individual businesses have already expressed concerns about declining standards and have linked the cleanliness and presentation of the city centre to decisions on future investment, event hosting and conference activity. Without a clear and coordinated improvement programme, confidence in the Council's ability to respond to public realm issues may weaken, with the risk of reduced visitor footfall, diminished business confidence and continued negative perceptions of the city's appearance. The successful outcomes of the Station to the Sea pilot demonstrate that visible improvements can be achieved, and not continuing this approach could result in a rapid deterioration of standards and loss of momentum.
- 8.2 There are also significant service delivery and strategic risks. Current daytime Street Cleansing teams have limited capacity to undertake the deep cleaning and restorative work required to raise baseline standards in high footfall areas. Without the overnight cleansing team, the city would continue to lack the capability to deliver the transformational activity needed and undermine the Council Plan commitment to create a clean, safe and attractive city centre.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The programme is expected to have positive equalities impacts, as improvements to cleanliness, graffiti removal, and public realm maintenance will particularly benefit groups who rely more heavily on safe, accessible and well-maintained public spaces, including disabled people, older residents, families with young children and those travelling at night. The introduction of a dedicated City Centre Manager and targeted cleansing approach strengthens the Council's ability to respond quickly to issues that may disproportionately affect these groups, such as obstructed footways, poor lighting, graffiti targeting protected characteristics and trip hazards. The phased overnight cleansing model also enables work to take place at times that minimise disruption to pedestrians, wheelchair users and people with limited mobility. No negative equalities impacts have been identified at this stage, and the approach supports the Council's wider commitment to ensuring Brighton & Hove's city centre is inclusive, safe and welcoming for all.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 The program offers several positive sustainability opportunities by improving the condition and resilience of the city's public realm. Enhanced graffiti removal, repainting, refurbishment of street furniture, and systematic deep cleaning all help prolong asset life and reduce the need for premature replacement, contributing to lower resource consumption and waste. The introduction of an overnight cleansing team enables work to be completed more efficiently and without daytime obstruction, improving the effectiveness

of environmental maintenance while supporting safer and more accessible streets for walking and cycling. The use of advanced equipment such as LaserTec for graffiti removal also provides potential environmental benefits through more targeted, less chemically intensive cleaning. However, the program also introduces a modest increase in operational activity—particularly overnight—which will require careful management of water, energy use and noise to minimise environmental impact. Overall, the coordinated approach supports a cleaner, more attractive city centre that encourages sustainable travel, strengthens civic pride, and enhances the long-term stewardship of the urban environment.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 The programme is expected to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing by improving the cleanliness and overall environmental quality of the city centre. A well-maintained public realm supports emotional wellbeing, reduces feelings of stress associated with neglected or disorderly spaces, and contributes to a stronger sense of pride and connection among residents, businesses and visitors. Cleaner, better kept streets and public areas encourage people to spend more time outdoors, socialise, walk and use active travel routes, all of which are beneficial to mental and physical wellbeing. The coordinated, place-based helps create a more welcoming and uplifting environment, contributing to improved collective wellbeing and a more positive experience of the city centre.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 To secure the overnight service, the Council will conduct a mini tender via the Procurement Services Framework Y23022. Using an established framework ensures that the procurement is transparent, competitive and fully compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Procurement Act 2023 and the Council's Contract Standing Orders

13. Crime & disorder implications:

- 13.1 Keeping the city centre clean and tidy reduces anti-social behavior primarily by signaling that an area is cared for. Unrepaired, dirty, or damaged areas (graffiti, litter, broken streetlights) signal that 'no one cares', and can encourage more serious antisocial behaviour and crime. Clean streets and well-maintained public spaces signify that an area is under active, positive control, discouraging potential offenders who prefer areas that are neglected.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 The introduction of the City Centre Manager, the successful Station to the Sea Test & Learn pilot, the strengthened graffiti management programme and the forthcoming overnight cleansing team collectively represent a comprehensive and coordinated approach to improving the cleanliness and

appearance of Brighton & Hove's city centre. This programme directly responds to stakeholder concerns, aligns with the Council Plan and provides the necessary leadership and operational capacity to deliver long term, meaningful improvements. Together, these initiatives form a strategy for raising standards and restoring confidence in the city's most prominent public spaces.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

1. City Centre Map

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 147

Subject: Local Authority Bus Grant Delivery Plan 2026-27

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

Lead Officer: Corporate Director - Operations

Contact Officer: Alison McManamon

Email: alison.mcmanamon@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000 and is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This Cabinet report outlines the current proposed Delivery Plan for the 26/27 Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG) from the Department for Transport (DfT) (formerly Bus Service Improvement Plan or BSIP). It proposes how the £5.752m in revenue and £3.259m in capital funding is allocated for 2026-27 and responds to BHCC's BSIP and BSIP Refresh (2024) objectives.

1.2 The draft plan looks to respond to priorities of BHCC residents and align LABG investment with BHCC's Administration Priorities (2025-2027):

1. A City to Be Proud Of: Reliable, affordable buses make it easier for everyone to get around and enjoy the city.
2. A Fair and Inclusive City: Affordable, frequent and accessible bus services help everyone take part in city life.
3. A Healthy City That Helps People to Thrive: Good bus services cut car trips, improve air quality and support safer, more active travel.
4. A Responsive and Learning Council with Well-Run Services: Using data, customer insight and strong partnerships ensures funding improves services where it matters most.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 the £5.752m in revenue and £3.259m in 2026/27 LABG funding is allocated as set out in **Table 2**.

2.2 the Corporate Director City Operations is granted delegated authority to adjust, cancel or re-instate the allocations set out in **Table 2** as the Corporate Director may consider necessary or appropriate from time to time provided that any allocations remain as permitted by any conditions attached to the LABG.

3. Context and background information

3.1 Since 2022, BHCC have received approximately £37m in BSIP and LABG funding. This funding has been used across a multitude of capital and revenue projects to improve bus services and infrastructure across Brighton and Hove. There have been many successes that have resulted from this initiative, including improved bus priority, bus stop accessibility, and network resilience, as well as introducing new express services, supporting higher frequency and better reliability on existing routes, and making bus fares more affordable. Collectively, these improvements have helped to ensure more equitable access to reliable, affordable, and inclusive transport across Brighton & Hove, supporting greater equality for all residents.

3.2 In December 2025, the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed that BHCC would receive further funding under LABG, comprising three years of revenue and four years of capital funding, to support the continued delivery of BHCC’s BSIP/LABG targets. Building on the initiatives taken to date, the direction for the new funding will have a particular emphasis on improving bus services and keeping fares affordable. Release of the grant funding for FY2026-27 is contingent on submission of a costed Delivery Plan by 20 March 2026 to DfT (although ideally agreed sooner because the BHCC Delivery Plan needs to be combined with the Sussex Delivery Plans for submission).

3.3 Table 1 below outlines the LABG allocations from the current financial year through 2029-30. The “Total Revenue Budget” is less than the “Total Revenue Allocation” because the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) and Bus Capacity Grant are combined and ringfenced within the Total Revenue Allocation under the new Consolidated Funding arrangement. Therefore, the effective budget for BSIP/LABG projects is listed under Total Revenue Budget. While allocations have been published by the DfT for the next three years (four years for capital), the current report focuses on the Delivery Plan for the 2026/27 LABG allocations only.

Table 1: LABG allocations for BHCC

LABG Funding	Allocations (£)				
	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Total Revenue Allocation (LABG)	£6,054,440	£5,751,718	£5,751,718	£5,751,718	TBC
• Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) <i>Paid from LABG revenue total</i>	£172,990	£172,990	£172,990	£172,990	TBC
• Bus Capacity Grant (C&C) <i>Paid from LABG revenue total</i>	£94,000	£94,000	£94,000	£94,000	TBC
Total Revenue Budget	£5,787,450	£5,484,728	£5,484,728	£5,484,728	TBC
Total Capital Budget	£3,225,177	£3,259,219	£3,324,731	£3,390,243	£3,455,755

3.4 **Figure 1** shows the top ranked priorities for public transport users, as assessed through the consultation on Our City Transport Plan 2035.

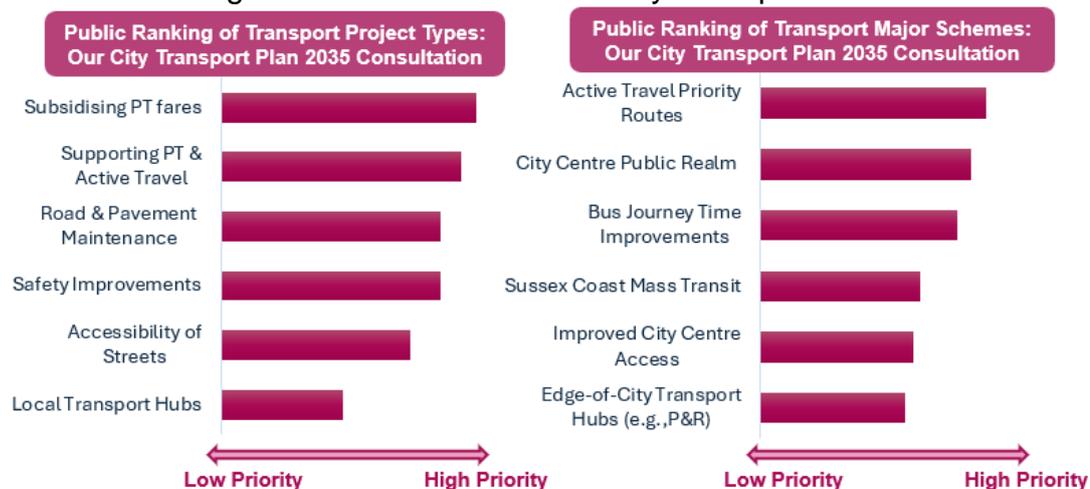


Figure 1: Project and scheme priority rankings from Our City Transport Plan 2035

3.5 **Table 2** sets out how the council will allocate its LABG funding for 2026/27.

3.6 **Table 2: BHCC’s LABG Draft Delivery Plan for FY2026-27**

Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG) Outline Delivery Plan		26/27	
Revenue Schemes	Category	Revenue	Capital
Customer services extended opening hours*	Supported Services	£80,000	
Support for Breeze, route 21, socially necessary services (routes 16, 47, 52, 37/37B)*	Supported Services	£3,285,000	
Service improvements (routes 17, 273), reliability enhancement for on time performance (routes 23, 24, 26, 46, 27)*	Supported Services	£760,000	
Fare offers (TBC)*	Fare offers	£750,728	
BHCC costs (data collection, bus stop suspension study...)*	BHCC costs	£384,000	
Capital Schemes	Category	Revenue	Capital
On bus camera traffic violation enforcement	Enforcement		£500,000
Bus stop accessibility and routes to bus stops (upgrading stops to include dropped kerbs, ramps, better layout)*	Stop improvement	£45,000	£500,000
Continued funding support for express bus services*	Supported Services		£500,000
Corridor strengthening for key bus routes (Lewes Road, Eastern Road, Upper Rock Gardens)*	Corridor improvement		£950,000
Strategic mobility hubs (including Park and Ride)	P&R		£150,000
Route analysis/corridor study actions	Bus priority	£70,000	£500,000
Preston Circus / London Road bus corridor study. Junction review and redesign, incl. junction modelling, detailed design, consultation, signals work.	Bus priority	£40,000	
Feasibility study of B123 Falmer Rd / Warren Rd junction (implementation contingent on outcomes of Rottingdean study)	Bus priority / corridor improvements	£70,000	
		26/27	
		Revenue	Capital
Scheme estimate		£5,434,728	£3,100,000
LABG Allocation		£5,484,728	£3,259,219
<i>Contingency</i>		£0	£159,219

- 3.7 This Delivery Plan builds on the strong progress made to date, ensuring a seamless transition into the next tranche of funding. It maintains support for projects that continue to deliver value for residents and align with council priorities, with ongoing initiatives indicated by an asterisk (*). The Delivery Plan has been carefully developed to meet the objectives of Our City Transport Plan and to help deliver the BHCC's Administration Priorities.
- 3.8 This report focuses on the proposed allocation of LABG funding but is aligned with the wider capital transport programme of works funded by both council borrowing and grant funds (funding sources include capital Local Transport Grant, Maintenance Block funding and Active Travel funding).

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 There are restrictions on what the LABG allocations should be spent on. They must be spent on measures that are primarily for the benefit of bus users and services. They should not, for example, be spent on concessionary fares, or reactive maintenance such as filling in potholes.
- 4.2 This report proposes directing a majority of LABG revenue funding to supporting service frequency and reliability, including for socially and economically necessary services. There are smaller allocations to support extended customer service opening hours for operators, internal BHCC costs (including staff costs, monitoring, surveys, and smaller projects), and support for capital projects (e.g. feasibility design work) where there is a risk that the capital element may not materialise. The remainder available is allocated for customer fare offers.
- 4.3 An alternative option could be to allocate more funding for fare offers. However, this would need to come from other programmes which have also been identified as priorities, including the supported services. The proposed allocations seek to achieve an appropriate balance between all of the priorities identified and deliver against each of the objectives of the BSIP and Our City Transport Plan 2035.
- 4.4 The LABG capital programme proposes directing funding to reliability enhancements (on bus camera traffic violation enforcement will contribute to these objectives), accessible bus stops, continued funding support for express bus services, corridor strengthening for key bus routes, and strategic mobility hubs (including park and ride). There are also bus priority programmes kicking off, some of which will take longer to achieve capital spend (Preston Circus / London Road bus corridor, B123 Falmer Rd / Warren Rd junction) and other route analysis/corridor study actions that will be more actionable and achieve quick wins.
- 4.5 An alternative option could be to allocate more funding for bus priority measures. However, it is recognised that BHCC have been an early adopter of bus lanes and many of the more easily achievable bus priority measures have already been implemented. The proposed allocations seek to achieve

an appropriate balance between what is realistically achievable, and the priorities identified in the BSIP / BSIP Refresh and Our City Transport Plan 2035.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The 2026/27 LABG Delivery Plan reflects the objectives of the BSIP Refresh (2024) and Our City Transport Plan 2035, which was agreed by Cabinet in December 2025 and was subject to a public consultation which provided information on the priorities for residents. The 2026/27 Draft LABG Delivery Plan was also issued for stakeholder engagement from 28 November 2025 until 9 January 2026 and has been further developed in response to this engagement.
- 5.2 Before delivering transport improvement schemes, the Lead Cabinet Member is fully briefed, the schemes are subject to public consultation and, if necessary, statutory consultation through the Traffic Regulation Order Process.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The overall level of new funding available for 2026/27 is a 5% decrease on what was awarded in 2025/26. The funding is set to remain at the same amount for future years. The announcement of a multi-year allocations will assist with longer-term planning, although this is subject to how funding will be allocated through the Mayoral Combined Authority.
- 6.2 For a number of years there has been a carry forward of revenue grant across financial years that has allowed a greater allocation of funds for fare reductions. These carry forward funds are expected to be at between £0.600m to £0.700m for 2026/27, effectively topping the 2026/27 grant up to between £1.350m and £1.450m.
- 6.3 By comparison the revenue carry forward into 2025/26 was £6.964m, all of which is expected to be drawn down during 2025/26.
- 6.4 Future years' LABG revenue and capital programmes will require cabinet approval and will be reported at future meetings.
- 6.5 Alternative options have been set out which would require a review of the budget allocation, any overspend on the grant allocations for all works outlined in the report would be required to be funded by the council's GF budgets, adding pressures to the 2026/27 financial position.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Wilder
(04/03/2026)

Date consulted

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council must ensure that its LABG Programme aligns with its strategic priorities, which is the case in this instance. Funds allocated must also align

with any permitted purposes specified in any conditions attached to the LABG. There are no other direct legal implications associated with approving the LABG funding allocations but any relevant legal implications that may arise on individual schemes will need to be considered when brought forward for implementation.

Name of lawyer consulted: David Fairfield Date consulted: 17/02/2026

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 This report directly supports actions set out to manage the council's corporate risk (SR38) 'Failure to take effective action to increase our cities resilience to climate change, improve biodiversity and transition to net zero' and (SR40) 'Failure to maintain a clean and safe city'.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 This report is aligned with the Brighton & Hove Accessible City Strategy 2023-2028, reflecting the council's commitment to improving accessibility across the transport network. Enhancing the ease, safety, and inclusivity of travel is a central objective of both the Strategy and this programme of work, ensuring that the city's transport system better supports residents with diverse needs.
- 9.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken on the original BSIP programme. Since then, the programme has evolved through several iterations, particularly in relation to fare initiatives. As a result, an updated EqIA focussed on the changes to BSIP/LABG-funded fare offers is currently being prepared, in consultation with a range of local groups, to ensure impacts on different communities are fully understood.
- 9.3 Since their introduction in 2023, the BSIP/LABG-funded fare offers have delivered a wide range of discounts across Under-19 tickets, Short and Medium Hop fares, CitySAVER products, Tap-on Tap-off payments, student fares, and other ticket types. These measures have generated approximately £10.8 million in customer savings since 2023, including around £3.9 million specifically benefiting U19 users since 2024 – representing substantial support for people on lower incomes, children, and young people. Although funding for fare offers is more limited within the FY26–27 Delivery Plan, BHCC remains committed to directing available resources toward those most in need to ensure the greatest social value. The reduced funding compared with previous years will require changes to the current fare offers, and while these changes may affect residents on low incomes who could be facing additional financial pressures, it is important to note that mandatory concessionary travel, selected LABG-funded initiatives, and commercially provided concessions will continue to be available.
- 9.4 Beyond fare offers, the BSIP/LABG programme delivers significant equalities benefits by improving the reliability, speed, and accessibility of Brighton & Hove's bus network. Measures such as red routes, enhanced bus priority, and carriageway reinforcement help cut journey times and

improve punctuality, supporting residents who rely most on public transport – particularly low income households, disabled passengers, older people, students, and those without access to a car. These improvements support BSIP objectives to make bus travel more affordable, accessible, and sustainable for all. In addition, infrastructure upgrades including smoother pavements, more accessible bus stops, improved shelters, and better real time information directly help disabled people, older residents, and parents with prams by making the network safer and easier to use. Safety-focussed changes such as simplified layouts and better lit, more accessible stopping points further support the BSIP goal of enhancing safety for women and girls.

- 9.5 The Better Buses For All BSIP scheme aims to address the accessibility, safety and inclusivity barriers identified across the city’s bus network, ensuring future improvements are shaped by lived experience. It proposes evidence-based actions to standardise best practice across all operators, including enhancing infrastructure, staff training, information provision and customer experience. Currently a youth-led campaign to improve safety for women and girls on public transport is being developed collaboratively with bus and rail operators, which will further support the BSIP ambition to deliver a more reliable, inclusive and equitable network for all residents.
- 9.6 Finally, investment in service frequency, reliability, and new express routes strengthens connectivity for underserved communities and ensures better access to employment, education, healthcare, and green spaces. These improvements particularly benefit areas such as Whitehawk, Moulsecoomb, Hangleton, and others, helping to reduce transport-related inequalities by linking communities to essential services and opportunities. Through these measures, the BSIP/LABG programme contributes to a more inclusive and equitable transport system across the city.
- 9.7 Individual programmes and projects will undertake their own Equalities Impact Assessments as required.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 The capital programme focusses on measures to contribute towards a more sustainable public transport system by reducing the impacts of transport on the environment and encouraging sustainable mode uptake, as well as providing a network that is more resilient to the effects of climate change.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 This programme directly supports the new physical activity strategy 2024-2034 which aims to get more people travelling actively by creating transport conditions that make active lifestyles easier and more accessible. By encouraging a shift away from private car use through more affordable fares, improved reliability, and expanded services, the LABG programme helps shape safer, cleaner streets that are essential for walking, cycling and wheeling. Enhancements to socially necessary routes and accessible bus stops improve access to parks, leisure centres, community facilities and the

seafront, supporting the strategy's goal of reducing inequalities and helping less active groups reach opportunities to move more.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 Procurement will be addressed at individual programme or project level. Some of the projects can be addressed by the Highways services Framework, the other projects will have to be procured directly.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

None identified.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 The LABG funding has been allocated to help deliver the council's priorities and aligns with the key objectives of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and 2024 Refresh as well as the newly adopted Our City Transport Plan.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 148

Subject: Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026-2029

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services

Lead Officer: Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing

Contact Officer: Richard Tuset

Email: richard.tuset@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, the statutory three-year strategy required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Strategy sets out the city’s multi-agency approach to reducing crime, tackling harm, supporting victims, and strengthening safety and cohesion across Brighton & Hove.
- 1.2 The Strategy aligns directly with the Council Plan 2023–2027, in particular commitments to creating a fairer and more inclusive city and a city where people feel safe and welcome, by:
- Improving safety, community wellbeing and trust;
 - Tackling violence against women and girls;
 - Adopting a learning, evidence-led, prevention-focused approach; and
 - Strengthening community cohesion and resilience.
- 1.3 The Strategy has been shaped by:
- 2025 Strategic Assessment of Crime & Community Safety;
 - Extensive partnership input;
 - The online public consultation;
 - National policy and legislative changes, including the Crime & Policing Bill and the Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy; and
 - Evolving governance landscape, including devolution proposals and Local Government Reorganisation.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Recommends to Full Council that it approves the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, attached in Appendix 1.

That Full Council:

- 2.2 Approves the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services and the Community Safety Partnership, to make minor amendments required to ensure alignment with any relevant new legislation (e.g., Crime & Policing Bill) and devolution-related governance, that may come into force during the lifetime of this strategy.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026 - 2029 sets out the Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) statutory plan for reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, reoffending, and risks to local communities. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, all responsible authorities - including the Council, Sussex Police, Fire & Rescue, Probation, and Health - must work together through the CSP to prepare, publish and oversee a three-year strategy addressing local community safety priorities.
- 3.2 Ownership of the Strategy rests collectively with the Community Safety Partnership Board, which provides strategic oversight, ensures compliance with statutory duties, and monitors delivery through partnership subgroups. The Strategy therefore represents not only a Council-authored document but a fully shared partnership plan reflecting the responsibilities and capabilities of the whole system. The Strategy appended to this report fulfils these statutory requirements and sets the direction for partnership activity from April 2026 to March 2029.
- 3.3 The development of the Strategy followed the nationally recognised, evidence-led cycle of Strategic Assessment → Drafting → Consultation → Revision → CSP approval. The starting point was the 2025 Strategic Assessment (Appendix 2), which analysed crime trends, vulnerability profiles, community tensions, service demand, demographic change and emerging risks. This Assessment produced a clear set of evidence-based recommendations and identified priority themes requiring a coordinated multi-agency response.
The draft Strategy was then prepared using this analysis, together with policy updates and learning from a range of sources including Prevent Learning Reviews, safeguarding findings, and practitioner insight.

- 3.4 A dedicated multi-agency workshop, facilitated by the CSP, brought together statutory partners, commissioned services, voluntary and community sector organisations, education, youth services, health and community representatives. Additional engagement took place through thematic networks and meetings, including Prevent, VAWG, ASB, Adolescent Services and community forums. Alongside partnership engagement, the draft Strategy was opened to the public through an online consultation. This generated rich qualitative information about community experience, perceptions of safety, and expectations of statutory services. The Strategy was then amended to reflect this feedback before being presented to the Community Safety Partnership Board for formal review and approval in early March 2026.
- 3.5 The Strategy has been developed during a period of rapid and significant change, both locally and nationally. Brighton & Hove continues to experience rising pressures associated with poverty, housing insecurity, mental and physical ill-health, and substance misuse, all of which shape patterns of vulnerability and compound risks across communities. The city's distinctive demographic profile - including a young adult population, high levels of inequality, and increasing complexity of need - means that individuals often experience multiple overlapping risks requiring integrated responses.
- 3.6 National policy shifts have also created a more complex landscape for community safety partnerships. The Crime and Policing Bill introduces new offences, stronger enforcement tools, extended safeguarding responsibilities and expectations linked to the Serious Violence Duty, requiring local services to adapt quickly to heightened statutory obligations. Alongside this, Prevent delivery is undergoing significant reform following the Prevent Learning Reviews, with increased scrutiny on how the system engages individuals with multiple and compound needs. National priorities around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) have also expanded, with the Government's VAWG Strategy setting a clearer expectation that local areas adopt whole-system, trauma-informed approaches which strengthen early intervention, perpetrator accountability, public space safety and cross-agency safeguarding.
- 3.7 In parallel, the national focus on community cohesion, and the Local Government Association's Common Ground guidance on building cohesive communities, has sharpened expectations that local authorities take an active role in addressing polarisation, tackling harmful narratives, and strengthening trust and belonging. This is particularly relevant in Brighton & Hove, where the Council's own Community Cohesion work and the development of a city-wide Cohesion Roadmap emphasise visible leadership, partnership-led responses, and the need to proactively support communities affected by tension, misinformation and global events.
- 3.8 Global instability, including the ongoing Israel/Palestine conflict, has had a pronounced local effect, fuelling fear among affected communities, driving increases in hate incidents, and contributing to polarisation and elevated community tensions. Online spaces have further amplified harms:

misinformation, extremism, online exploitation and bullying increasingly underpin both the perception and the lived experience of safety in the city.

- 3.9 Overlaying these pressures are changes to governance arising from devolution and local government reform, which create uncertainty about future structures, accountability and resource distribution. The Strategy has therefore been designed to be flexible and resilient, capable of withstanding organisational shifts while maintaining a strong, locally grounded partnership response.
- 3.10 Despite these challenges, the 2025 Strategic Assessment highlights areas of strength: robust multi-agency structures, strong collaboration between statutory and voluntary sectors, innovative work across VAWG, ASB, Prevent and adolescent safeguarding, and resilience in responding to fast-moving community tensions. These foundations underpin the Strategy's approach.
- 3.11 In response to evidence, consultation and statutory requirements, the Strategy sets out a delivery model centred on early intervention, evidence-led practice, prevention, and strong partnership coordination. It emphasises the importance of learning - both from national reviews and local practice - and the need for approaches that are trauma-informed, inclusive, and responsive to community voice and lived experience. The Strategy retains the five established strategic priority areas, updated to reflect the current landscape:
- Serious violence, drugs and exploitation
 - Domestic abuse, sexual violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Hate incidents and hate crime
 - Prevent (terrorism and extremism)

Within each priority, the Strategy outlines how partners will work together to prevent harm, disrupt offending, support victims and communities, and identify and respond to vulnerability. It also sets expectations for improved data-sharing, joint tasking, place-based interventions, and hotspot-focused work.

- 3.12 Cross-cutting CSP delivery principles developed in the strategy include:
- Acting early to prevent harm;
 - Tackling issues with the greatest impact on vulnerable residents and high-harm locations;
 - Strengthening trust and confidence in statutory agencies;
 - Aligning enforcement and support;
 - Addressing the underlying drivers of crime and harm, including inequality, disadvantage and exclusion;
 - Addressing community tensions and promoting cohesion;
 - Learning continuously from evidence, lived experience and national practice.

3.13 The Community Safety Partnership Board has reviewed and approved the plan at its March 2026 meeting, and will oversee its implementation through annual action plans, performance monitoring and partnership governance arrangements.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the Strategy (recommended). This enables statutory compliance, provides strategic clarity, strengthens partnership governance, and ensures a coherent citywide approach to crime reduction and safety.

4.2 **Option 2** – Do not approve the Strategy. This would place the Council in breach of statutory duties and risk fragmented partnership working, reduced community confidence, and loss of strategic coherence.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 A dedicated multi-agency workshop was held in November 2025, facilitated by the CSP, that brought together statutory partners, commissioned services, voluntary and community sector organisations, education, youth services, health and community representatives. Additional engagement took place through thematic networks and meetings, including Prevent, VAWG, ASB, adolescent services and community forums.

5.2 Alongside partnership engagement, the draft Strategy was opened to the public through an online consultation which received 147 responses - almost double the volume of the 2023 consultation. This generated rich qualitative information about community experience, perceptions of safety, and expectations of statutory services.

5.3 The consultation received a broad range of responses from residents, community groups, statutory partners, and businesses. Across all priority areas, respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the overall aims and plans, but raised significant concerns about implementation, enforcement and resourcing. See Appendix 3 for more details. A number of cross cutting themes we identified including:

- **Visible policing & enforcement** - increased police responsiveness.
- **Addressing root causes:**
 - Poverty reduction
 - Youth provision
 - Housing and homelessness support
 - Mental health and substance-misuse services
 - Place-based work / tackling geographical city centre hotspots
- **Communication and reporting** – improved ways to report crime/ASB
- **Community tensions around Israel/Palestine:**
 - Both Jewish and Palestinian communities expressing fear
 - Confusion and disagreement about what constitutes hate crime
 - Concerns about protest rights, safety, and approaches to policing

5.4 This feedback has been used to amend the strategy before being presented to the Community Safety Partnership Board and Cabinet for formal review and approval.

6. Financial implications

6.1 The council's costs associated with delivering the Community Safety Strategy are planned for and met through the council's established annual budgeting processes and medium-term financial planning. Delivery of the Strategy is aligned to existing corporate priorities and is managed within agreed financial resources, ensuring appropriate financial governance and value for money.

6.2 Alongside this, the council makes targeted investment in partnership working and the resourcing of services that contribute to improved community safety outcomes. This includes funding and commissioning arrangements with statutory partners, as well as grant funding and commissioned activity delivered through the community and voluntary sector. These investments are focused on addressing the underlying causes of community safety issues, including poverty, homelessness, mental health needs and substance misuse.

6.3 Preventative and early-intervention activity in the city is supported through specific programmes and commissioning arrangements, including the council's community and voluntary sector grant funding programmes. This approach supports sustainable reductions in harm and helps manage future demand on statutory services, contributing to longer-term financial sustainability.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (09/02/26):

7. Legal implications

7.1 There is a statutory requirement for this strategy, as set out at 3.1 above. The consultation requirements are met. There are no other legal comments save to mention the public sector equality duty is a relevant issue and is referred to below. There is also the requirement under the Children's Act to take into account the welfare and well being of children in decision making.

Name of lawyer consulted: Simon Court Date consulted 12.02.2025.

8. Risk implications

8.1 Key risks identified through the strategy development process include:

- Increasing demand & complexity outpacing capacity.
- Community tensions exacerbated by political or international events.
- Data-sharing limitations undermining evidence-led intervention.

- Devolution/LGR changes creating uncertainty in governance and service boundaries.
- Legislative changes (e.g., Crime & Policing Bill) requiring rapid local adaptation.

8.2 Mitigations include strengthened multi-agency governance, quarterly monitoring, annual review, and contingency planning for devolution and LGR.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 The 2026–2029 Strategy is accompanied by a full Equality Impact Assessment (see Appendix 4). Key themes include:

- Disproportionate experiences of harm among disabled residents, Black and Racially Minoritised communities, Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex, young people, women, looked after children and care leavers and those in poverty;
- Barriers to reporting for marginalised communities;
- Increased risk of hate incidents linked to geopolitical tensions;
- Underreporting of incidents affecting TNBI communities.-reporting of incidents affecting TNBI communities

9.2 The Strategy seeks to directly addresses these inequalities through interventions, improved reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and commitments to anti-racist and trauma-informed practice.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability implications relating to this report.

10.2 Community safety work contributes positively to sustainability through:

- Reducing crime and ASB that cause environmental damage (e.g., arson, waste, vandalism);
- Supporting safer movement around the city, aligning with sustainable transport goals;
- Enhancing resilience of communities affected by overlapping socio-economic vulnerabilities.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 Crime, fear of crime, exploitation, and ASB significantly affect mental and physical health. The Strategy improves health outcomes through:

- Trauma-informed approaches;
- Early intervention around substance misuse;
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults;
- Reducing violence and exploitation;
- Strengthening community belonging and cohesion.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 There are no procurement implications relating to this report.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must consider crime and disorder impacts in all decisions. This Strategy is the primary mechanism through which the city fulfils this duty. It sets out clear partnership plans to reduce:

- Serious violence;
- Exploitation;
- Domestic abuse and VAWG;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Hate incidents and hate crime;
- Risks of terrorism and extremism.

14. Conclusion

14.1 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029 provides a clear, evidence-based, partnership-driven framework to reduce crime, prevent harm, strengthen cohesion, and improve safety across Brighton & Hove. It is shaped by community and stakeholder input, informed by the Strategic Assessment, and aligned with national developments and local priorities. Cabinet approval will ensure statutory compliance and enable delivery to begin immediately.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

Appendix 1: Community Safety & Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029

Appendix 2: Summary of Online Consultation Feedback

Appendix 3: Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety 2025

Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment

2. Background documents

- BHCC VAWG Strategy
- National VAWG Strategy
- Crime & Policing Bill
- LGA Common Ground guidance.

Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy

2026 – 2029



Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership

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If you would like to provide any feedback on this document, you can do so by email to:
community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Introduction

The Partnership's aims

The Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership is committed to making the city a safer, more inclusive place for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Brighton & Hove. Our overarching duty is to:

- **Reduce crime and disorder**
- **Improve community safety**
- **Reduce re-offending**

By focusing on these aims, we seek to enhance the quality of life across our diverse communities. Our approach centres on the following principles:

- Taking early action to **prevent** crime and disorder
- Tackling the issues that have the **greatest impact** on people's lives
- **Reducing the fear of crime** and meeting the needs of victims
- Building and sustaining **community cohesion**
- Improving **trust and confidence**

About this strategy

This strategy sets out our plans for the period 2026 - 2029. It is produced in line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and reflects our shared commitment to partnership working, evidence-led action, continuous improvement, transparency and accountability.

Learning from the Previous Strategy

In shaping the 2026–2029 Community Safety Strategy, the partnership has undertaken a thorough review of progress achieved under the previous strategy (2023–2026). This earlier period was marked by significant challenges, including the ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and heightened community cohesion pressures influenced by national and global events.

The link between poverty, inequality, and community safety is both profound and inseparable. These challenges place significant demands on partnerships and resources, while minority and disadvantaged communities often bear a disproportionate impact. Areas experiencing higher levels of deprivation are more vulnerable to crime, exploitation, and social harm. Addressing these inequalities is essential to creating safer, stronger neighbourhoods where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

These pressures have tested the resilience of our services and communities, reinforcing the need for strong partnership working, adaptability, and a renewed commitment to prevention and inclusion.

Key areas of learning

Partnership Strengths: Multi-agency collaboration remains a cornerstone, enabling coordinated responses to complex issues such as serious violence, exploitation, hate crime, Prevent, and VAWG. The partnership has shown resilience in adapting to new threats, including legislative changes and the cost-of-living crisis. Strong partnership with our residents and diverse communities enabled us to better understand and effectively respond to the shifting context and emerging threats.

Resource Constraints and Innovation: Persistent funding and capacity pressures have limited the ability to scale early intervention and prevention work, despite rising demand. This has required greater innovation, including the use of harm-led approaches, targeted enforcement, and creative use of community assets. However, further innovation is needed, particularly in response to gaps in after-school provision, mentoring, and contextual safeguarding for young people.

Community Cohesion and Engagement: National and international events have had significant local impacts, highlighting the need for rapid, visible partnership responses and robust community engagement. The impact on community perceptions, and inter-community relations have led to increased demands on statutory partners and managing competing priorities within shifting dynamics. The loss of third-party reporting capacity for hate incidents has exposed gaps in support for marginalised communities, underlining the importance of trust, survivor voice, and lived experience in shaping responses.

Data, Evidence, and Knowledge Gaps: Improved use of data and intelligence has supported targeted interventions, but there is scope for more real-time, cross-partner data sharing and evaluation. Gaps remain in understanding the prevalence and motivations for knife carrying, cuckooing, and sexual exploitation, as well as under-reporting across all thematic areas. Meaningfully capturing information from communities and the Third Sector to inform partnership response can be challenging.

Adaptability and System Learning: The partnership has demonstrated adaptability, but further agility is needed as governance structures evolve. Learning from safeguarding reviews, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs), statutory and independent reviews, and lived experience must be systematically embedded to drive continuous improvement.

A number of recommendations for the new 2026 – 29 Strategy have been identified and are provided in Appendix 1

The Partnership and its work

Partnership working locally

The city is much better placed to tackle crime and disorder if everyone – residents and businesses, community and voluntary groups, and city services – work together in a coordinated way. The local authority, police, health, probation and fire services are statutory partners under the 1998 Act. However, in practice, the Community Safety Partnership works across a much wider range of partners at different levels and on different topics to work out what needs doing, and who can help.

As well as the impact on individuals and communities, the negative effects of crime and disorder increase demand on public services. Working in partnership and adopting a ‘whole system approach’ is essential. Our work contributes to, and overlaps with, the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan¹, to the council’s Corporate Plan², to the Combating Drugs Partnership work, as well as to measures in the Public Health Outcomes Framework to name a few examples.

National Context

The national landscape for community safety is evolving rapidly, shaped by a convergence of social, economic, political, and technological pressures. While the government’s Beating Crime Plan continues to guide efforts to reduce serious violence, neighbourhood crime, and anti-social behaviour, there is an increasing emphasis on addressing “hidden harms” such as domestic abuse, violence against women and girls (VAWG), online exploitation, and hate crime.

However, the context in which local partnerships operate is becoming significantly more complex. The following national and structural developments are reshaping the environment for community safety:

Rising Extremism and Community Tensions: Persistent extremist agitation-both online and offline-is fuelling division and undermining community cohesion. The amplification of harmful narratives, often linked to international and national events disinformation, and conspiracy theories, is contributing to a rise in hate incidents and polarisation. Local authorities are increasingly required to respond to the consequences of global and national events playing out in local communities.

Complex and Intersecting Needs: Communities are facing overlapping challenges including poverty and disadvantage, mental ill-health, housing insecurity, substance misuse, and digital exclusion. These intersecting ‘compound’ needs require integrated, trauma-informed, and culturally competent responses across statutory and voluntary services. There is a clear recognition of differential impact on individuals, and that the

¹ [Sussex Police and Crime Plan, 2021-24, PDF.](#)

² [Brighton and Hove City Council Plan, 2023-2027.](#)

impact will differ on individuals with multiple and intersecting identities, often referred to as intersectionality.

Cumulative Systemic Pressures: Years of austerity, rising demand, and workforce pressures have created a fragmented service landscape. This is eroding resilience across statutory and community sectors, making it harder to deliver early intervention and sustain long-term prevention work.

Cost of Living Crisis: The ongoing cost of living crisis is deepening vulnerabilities. Financial stress, food and fuel insecurity, and reduced access to essential services are increasing the risk of exploitation, offending, and victimisation-particularly among those already marginalised.

Political Volatility and Policy Shifts: Rapidly evolving national and international political developments are having a direct impact on local cohesion. Certain communities are disproportionately affected by changes in asylum, migration, and equalities policy, contributing to a sense of fear and exclusion.

Health System Reorganisation: The transition to neighbourhood-based models within Integrated Care Systems (ICS) presents both opportunities and uncertainties. These changes affect how community health and place-based safety initiatives are delivered, with implications for access, coordination, and equity.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): LGR introduces uncertainty around population profiles, service boundaries, and governance structures. Misalignment between new administrative boundaries and existing service footprints risks creating gaps in provision and confusion for residents.

Devolution and Mayoral Governance: The introduction of a regional mayor and devolution of powers will reshape the governance and funding landscape for community safety. While this presents opportunities for strategic alignment, it also brings uncertainty around priorities, accountability, and local influence.

Social Media and Misinformation: The rapid growth of social media has transformed how individuals and communities communicate, but it has also introduced significant risks to cohesion and safety. They engender distrust in their audience towards the government and mainstream media; the lack of trust effectively limits the capacity and impact of countering disinformation and misinformation. Platforms designed to connect people have become fertile ground for **misinformation, polarisation, and harmful narratives**. False or misleading content spreads at speed, often amplified by algorithms that prioritise engagement over accuracy. **Hate speech** and conspiracy theories circulating online disproportionately impact visibly minoritised groups, including Muslim and Jewish communities, and exacerbate vulnerabilities for the disabled, migrants, women and LGBTQ+ individuals. The result is a growing climate of intimidation and insecurity, where online hostility translates into offline abuse and violence.

The Community Safety Strategy and Policy Context

The Community Safety Strategy does not operate in isolation; it is embedded within a network of local and national policies that collectively shape safer, fairer communities. This strategy both supports and is supported by complementary frameworks, ensuring alignment and coherence across priorities.

Key linked policies and strategies include:

- **Brighton & Hove Anti-Racism Strategy** – driving systemic change to eliminate racial inequality and discrimination.
- **National Policing Plan** – setting standards for enforcement, prevention, and community engagement.
- **Financial Inclusion and Anti-Debt Initiatives** – reducing economic vulnerability that often correlates with crime and exploitation.
- **Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Plans** – addressing underlying factors that contribute to offending and victimisation.
- **National and local Violence Against Women and Girls Strategies** – safeguarding vulnerable groups and promoting gender equality.
- **Common Ground** - the Local Government Associations guidance on building more cohesive communities.

These connections are critical to achieving the objectives of the Community Safety Strategy. While this document acknowledges these interdependencies, detailed exploration sits within the respective strategies to maintain clarity of purpose and statutory focus. Further details are provided later in the document.

Legal and Policy Developments

The **Recent Supreme Court ruling** on sex and the Equality Act may require changes to how agencies assess risk, deliver services, and evidence decision-making. These developments bring potential resource pressures as services adapt their policies and processes to remain compliant with the evolving legal landscape. Agencies will need to update practice promptly while balancing community expectations, the requirements of the Equality Act and maintaining strong safeguarding standards.

The forthcoming **Crime and Policing Bill 2025**, currently progressing through Parliament, is set to reshape the legal landscape for community safety. It introduces new offences such as **child criminal exploitation**, **coerced internal concealment**, and **cuckooing**, each carrying significant custodial penalties. The Bill also strengthens police powers to tackle **anti-social behaviour**, **knife crime**, and **retail violence**, including the creation of **Respect Orders** and enhanced enforcement mechanisms.

The Government's new **Freedom from Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2025–2028)** introduces a strengthened national framework for preventing and responding to VAWG, with a major focus on early intervention, whole-of-system accountability, and

improving outcomes for victims. It places new expectations on local areas to embed trauma-informed practice, expand multi-agency risk management, and improve consistency in responding to high-harm perpetrators. These national commitments will require local partnerships to ensure their governance, training, and data-sharing arrangements are aligned with the strengthened statutory focus on VAWG.

These changes will require local partnerships to review enforcement protocols, safeguarding frameworks, and multi-agency coordination to ensure compliance and effective implementation.

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Brighton & Hove and the people in the city

The information in the next two sections has been taken from the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety 2025. To request a copy, please contact community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Our residents and visitors

People with many different characteristics contribute to the makeup of the local population; crime and disorder issues will also impact on people differently.

According to the 2024 ONS mid-year population estimates, there are a total of 283,870 people living in the city, up 1.0% (2,735 people) compared with 2023 and 7,416 more (up 2.7%) compared with mid-2021.

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer young children or older people, but more younger adults, particularly those aged 19 to 30 years old. Contributing to people in this age group are those who come to the city to study. Within the city there were 3,080 more females than males in the age group 18 to 25 years old, and 2,850 more females than males aged 75 years and over.

For the academic year 2023/24, a total 35,885 students were enrolled at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton, 5.3% fewer (2,020 people) than in the previous year. This compared with a 0.6% overall decrease in enrolled students across England. In Brighton & Hove, 58% of these students were female and 42% male³.

The city is a popular tourist destination. In 2023, the latest year for which data is available, around 10.2 million trips were estimated to have been made to the city by day visitors (up 2% on 2022), with 5.6 million overnight stays (up 7.0% on 2022)⁴.

According to the 2021 Census, Brighton & Hove is continuing to become a more ethnically diverse city. While the overall number of residents had only increased by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, the number of Black and Racially Minoritised residents had increased by 35%, representing 18,921 people. More than a quarter of residents (26%, 72,272 people) were Black and Racially Minoritised under the definition used by Brighton and Hove City Council, which is, all ethnic groups apart from White UK/British. The city continues to be a destination for people born outside of the UK, with one in five residents living in Brighton (20%, 54,343 people) born outside the UK as of the 2021 Census, higher than both the South East (16%) and England (17%).

Brighton & Hove also had the highest proportion of residents identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB+) in England at the time of the 2021 Census. More than one in ten residents aged 16 or over (10.7%, 25,247 people) identified with an LGB+ sexual orientation. This is

³ Higher Education Statistical Agency (HESA), [Where do HE students study? | HESA](#)

⁴ Tourism South East; [Economic Impact of Tourism - Brighton and Hove Report 2023](#)

three times the percentage found in both the South East (3.1%) and England (3.2%) and the highest seen in any upper tier local authority in England. In the 2024 Health Counts survey completed in the city, 28% of residents identified with an LGBTQ+ identity^{5,6}, using a slightly different question to that in the 2021 Census.

At least 2,341 residents (1.0%) in Brighton & Hove identified with a gender different from their sex registered at birth in the 2021 Census⁷, around double the proportion in the South East (0.47%) and England (0.55%). The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying with a gender different from their sex registered at birth (1.0%) was in the highest 25 of local authorities in England and Wales.

One in forty residents aged 16 years old or older (5,618 people, 2.4%) have previously served in the UK armed forces⁸. This is significantly lower than in the South East (4.2%) and England (3.8%). Among the 5,618 veterans, 3,948 were in the regular UK armed forces, 1,423 in the reserves and 246 in both the regular and reserve armed forces.

Brighton & Hove residents are significantly more likely to be disabled than people living in the South East and England. At the time of the 2021 Census, nearly one in five residents (19%, 51,797 people) report that their day-to-day activities are 'limited a little' or 'limited a lot' by health problems. In the 2024 Health Counts survey⁵, 37% of adults reported that their day-to-day activities were limited by a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness.

In 2025, 9,780 residents aged 18 to 64 (5.0%) were estimated to have impaired mobility, increasing to 18.6% of people aged over 65. There were an estimated 5,828 people in the city aged over 18 (2.5%) with a learning difficulty⁹.

Brighton & Hove also has significant mental health needs. The proportion of adults with common mental disorders (such as anxiety or depression) are estimated to be 1 in 5 in the

⁵ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage - Health Counts Survey.](#)

⁶ Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. There were 16,729 respondents, results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate. The survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Brighton, in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Medical School, NHS Sussex, Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, Brighton & Hove Federation and Brighton & Hove City Council Public Health Intelligence team. It was funded by the Public Health Department at Brighton & Hove City Council.

⁷ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Gender identity statistics for England and Wales, Census 2021.](#)

⁸ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Census 2021 output: previously served in the UK Armed Forces.](#)

⁹ [Projecting Older People Population Information System](#) and [Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information.](#)

city, which is higher than the England estimate of 1 in 6 and considered an underestimate¹⁰. In the 2024 Health Counts Survey⁶, 24% of respondents reported low levels of happiness, and 38% reported high levels of anxiety.

Brighton & Hove had 1,991 Children in Need and 262 children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan¹¹ as of March 2024, both slightly down from the same time in 2023 but both proportionally higher than the South East and England¹². National evidence shows that people who have been looked after as children are more likely to be unemployed, be involved in crime and be identified as having a substance misuse problem¹³.

Social and economic factors

The Index of Multiple Deprivation¹⁴ (IMD) 2025 ranked Brighton & Hove the 96th most deprived upper tier local authority in England (out of 153). Average IMD rank scores show that Brighton and Hove has lower levels of overall deprivation compared to England, but higher levels compared to the South East. The level of deprivation varies widely across the city - with some of the most deprived areas in the east and central parts of the city. Smaller areas of deprivation are also found in the west of the city. Looking at only the crime domain, the IMD shows that Brighton & Hove has higher levels of crime deprivation than both England and the South East.

There were an estimated 8,000 unemployed people in the city in the twelve months up to March 2025. This represented 4.7% of all those who were economically active¹⁵ compared to 3.9% in Great Britain and in 3.3% in the South East¹⁶.

Around one in 15 (6.7%) of the city's 16–17-year-olds (382 young people) were not in education, training or employment (NEET) or their status was not known, in the three months ending March 2025 - slightly lower than the average for the South East (7.0%) but higher than for England (5.6%)¹⁷.

¹⁰ BHCC; [Mental Health & Wellbeing in Brighton & Hove, 2022](#).

¹¹ Department for Education; [Child Protection Plan statistics, Explore Education Statistics Service](#).

¹² [Department of Education statistics, Children in Need 2024](#).

¹³ [NICE web report - Costing report: promoting the quality of life of looked after children and young people - PDF](#).

¹⁴ [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁵ Economically active refers to those who are either employed or who are unemployed according to the above definition.

¹⁶ NOMIS; [Brighton & Hove Labour Market Profile](#).

¹⁷ [Department for Education webpage - NEET and participation Local Authority scorecard](#).

Data from the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)¹⁸ shows that as of September 2025, there were 22,360 low-income households in the city with 8,527 children living in them. Of these low-income households, 5,939 households - with 3,720 children living in them - were below the poverty line. This is an increase of 201 households living below the poverty line in the city compared with November 2024. In addition, 2,215 households in the city were estimated to have a cash shortfall and 553 households were in food poverty.

Housing and homelessness

Brighton & Hove had 121,401 homes at the time of the 2021 Census, with an average household size of 2.2 occupants. This compared with 2.4 in the South East and in England.

The city has fewer owner occupiers and more people renting from private landlords than the average for the South East and England as a whole. A third of households (33%, 39,684 households) in the city rented privately at that time. This is significantly higher than both the South East (19%) and England (20%) and was the highest proportion in England outside of London and the Isles of Scilly. Meanwhile, homeownership in Brighton & Hove is falling; just over a half of households in the city (51%) own their own home, significantly lower than in the South East (66%) and England (61%).

The personal and societal cost of homelessness remains a profound problem in the city. The Street Outreach Service found 716 people sleeping rough in 2024/25, down from 785 the previous year and 927 in 2022/23, but reflective of a longer-term issue of rough sleeping seen in the last five years. The reduction seen here reflects targeted work across the city to reduce the number of individuals rough sleeping.

...and what we don't know

We need to remain aware that not all the people in the city will feature in the various statistics at our disposal, nor come to the attention of services. This 'invisible' or unidentified population may be among the most vulnerable to crime and community safety issues and extra focus is needed in order to provide help to these groups.

Meeting our equalities duty

The Equality Act 2010 requires that public sector bodies consider and take account of how the lives of people with protected characteristics are impacted by their work. Our Strategic Assessment in 2025 reported on how different people are affected by crime and safety issues. The process of determining our priorities and actions takes these findings into account.

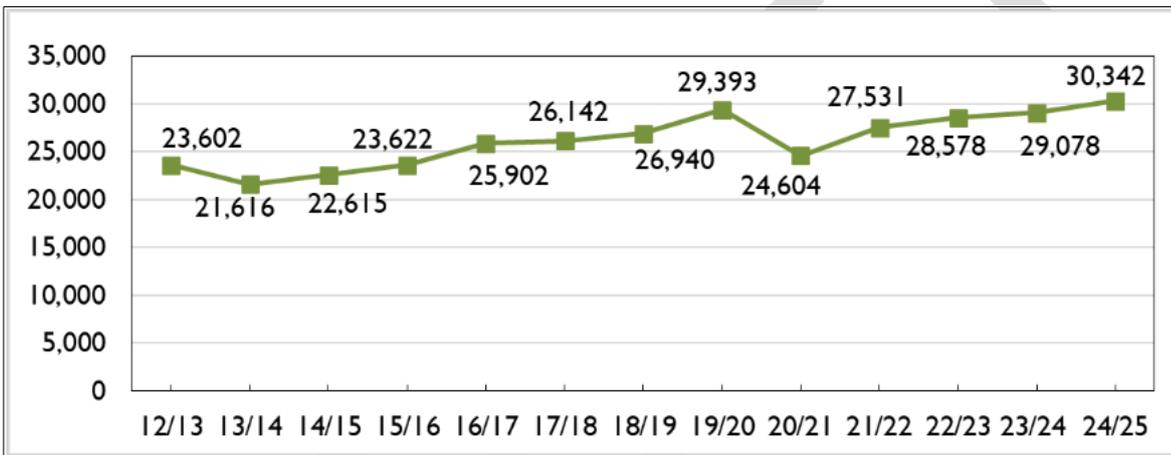
¹⁸ LIFT data is produced using council data on Housing Benefit claimants and DWP data relating to Universal Credit-Council Tax Reduction claimants in the city. These are combined with data on council tax arrears, Housing Benefit overpayments and rent arrears (where BHCC is landlord). This information for each individual household is then calculated against average spend by particular household type. The result is a snapshot of financial vulnerability for each of these households in the city and doesn't include all low income, benefit recipient households.

Crime and disorder overview

Nature and scale of crimes

There were 30,342 crimes recorded by police in Brighton & Hove in 2024/25. This was 4.2% higher than in the previous year and the fourth consecutive year in which total crimes increased in the city, following the sharp decrease in recorded crime in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

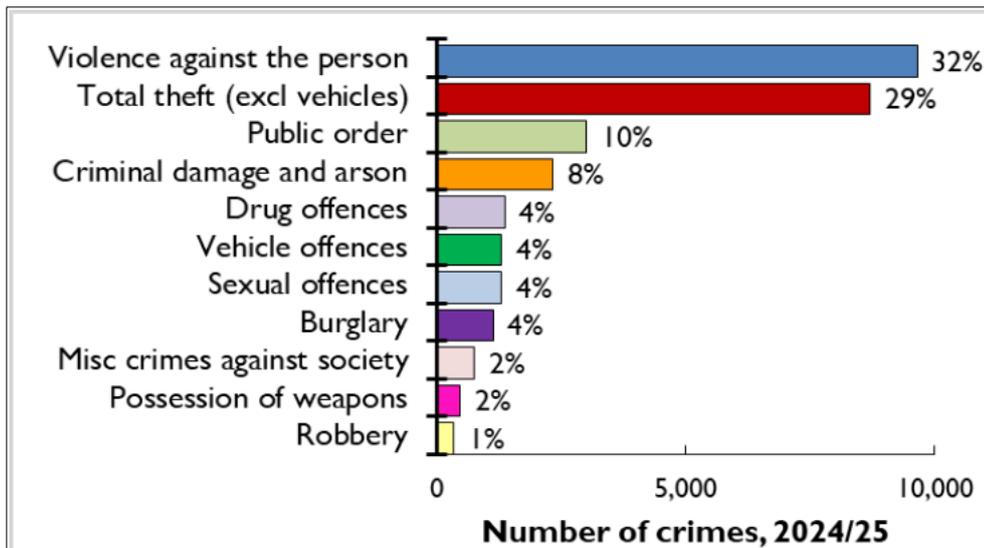
Figure 1. Total police recorded crime, 2012/13 – 2024/25



From 2013/14, total police recorded crimes increased year by year until 2019/20, a long-term peak. Covid-related restrictions put in place during 2020/21 contributed to an approximately 16% drop in total crimes recorded. Following the removal of restrictions, recorded crimes increased by 11.9% in 2021/22, 3.8% in 2022/23, 1.7% in 2023/24 and 4.2% in 2024/25. It remains important to note that, as well as underlying changes in crimes taking place, crime trends are influenced by recording practices, changes in definitions, and changing propensity to report which vary significantly by crime type.¹⁹

¹⁹ The increase seen from 2014/15 onwards was influenced in part by the Sussex Police response to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies inspection program on data integrity, undertaken during 2013/14. This work had an impact on the recording of violent and sexual offences in particular. A subsequent [HMIC inspection in 2016](#) on data recording by Sussex Police found that improvements have been made, while further areas for improvement were identified.

Figure 2. Total police recorded crime breakdown, 2024/25



Prior to 2019/20, Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents had showed a long-term decline since at least 2007/08 - where more than 22,000 incidents had been recorded – down to less than 7,300 in 2019/20. A sharp increase in ASB incidents took place in 2020/21 as police responded to incidents involving people contravening government Covid-related restrictions or new neighbourly disputes, resulting in nearly 13,500 incidents recorded. Following the lifting of restrictions throughout 2021, recorded incidents fell to around 8,300 incidents in 2021/22 and 4,316 in 2022/23. In 2023/24 there were 4,870 ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police in the city, 13% greater than in 2022/23, increasing a further 10% to 5,365 in 2024/25.

More information on recorded crimes and incidents is provided in the Strategic Assessment.

Crime patterns

The retail and leisure area in the city centre is also the geographical hotspot for much of the city's crime and disorder.

Seasonal patterns often coincide with the peak visitor season when there are more people in the city to both perpetrate and be victims of crime, and when people tend to spend more time outdoors. Certain crimes are more likely to take place at particular times of day, for example violence occurs more frequently on Friday and Saturday nights, linking with the night-time economy.

Offending and reoffending

There were 1,745 offenders (1,690 adults and 55 young people) in the financial year 2022/23 in Brighton & Hove, the latest full year available²⁰. Of these, 31% of the adults and 35% of the young people perpetrating crime in this period went on to reoffend in the

²⁰ As annual figures were produced by aggregating the four preceding 3-monthly cohorts recorded by the Ministry of Justice, there may be some double-counting of offenders.

following 12 months, and adult reoffending rates in the city were higher than the South East (23%) and England & Wales (26%). On average, juvenile reoffenders in the city had carried out 5.16 offences each, while adult reoffenders had carried out 4.73 reoffences each - both figures greater than in the previous year.

Alcohol and drug use

Violent crime is frequently associated with alcohol misuse, and habitual drug use can be a driver for acquisitive crimes²¹.

Measures of alcohol sales²² and consumption²³ in the latest statistics were higher in the city than in England, the South East and higher than the average of our matched authorities.

Latest estimates based on modelling from 2019/20 show that, compared with the South East and with England, the proportion of the city's resident population using opiates or crack cocaine remains significantly higher.²⁴

Hidden crime and criminal groups

It is necessary to remain aware that crimes may be hidden from sight. Criminal behaviour continues to evolve while pressures on victims to remain silent can persist. Organised crime groups can widen the geography of both perpetrators and victims in areas such as child sexual abuse, drug dealing and human trafficking. Partnerships play an important role in addressing these issues.

Feeling safe

National research found that in 2024/25, 8% of survey respondents reported feeling a high level of worry about violent crime, 8% about burglary, 17% about fraud, and 7% of car owners had a high level of worry about car crime. Women continue to report greater worry than men, as do people from Mixed, Asian/Asian British or Black/Black British ethnicities, people who work in manual routine occupations or who are long-term unemployed due to illness, disabled people and people having already been a recent victim of crime²⁵.

Locally, the Health Counts²⁶ survey conducted in Brighton & Hove in 2024 asked how safe residents felt walking alone in their local area within approximately 15 minutes from their home, both during the day and at night. During the day, 96% of respondents report feeling safe in their local area, however at night this dropped to 65%. Younger adults, those aged

²¹ [Home Office, Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, 2016](#)

²² [NHS Fingertips - Alcohol Sales by Local Authority, 2014.](#)

²³ [NHS Fingertips - Alcohol Profile for Brighton & Hove.](#)

²⁴ [Government Research and analysis on Opiate and crack cocaine use, webpage.](#)

²⁵ [ONS webpage - Annual supplementary tables for Crime in England and Wales using the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\).](#)

²⁶ [Health Counts 2024: Summary of Results. Brighton, Brighton and Hove City Council.](#)

85 years and older, females, trans, non-binary or intersex respondents, LGBTQ+ respondents, Gypsy Roma or Irish Traveller respondents, as well as people with experience of the care system, and those who are housed in temporary or emergency accommodation were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Disabled respondents were also more likely to feel unsafe in their local area at night. This difference was particularly marked amongst some groups, such as those with a speech and language issues, those with a developmental condition, those who had a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact, as well as those with a learning disability.

There were also geographical differences in feelings of safety across the city. People who live in the most deprived areas of the city are significantly more likely to report feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone in their local area at night compared with all respondents. Those living in Moulsecoomb & Bevendean, Queen's Park, Kemptown, and Whitehawk & Marina wards were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area both during the day and at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Financial impact

The financial impact of crime is significant. Estimated costs of crime have been provided by the Home Office and cover, for example, physical/emotional harm, lost output, value of property stolen/damaged, and the cost of health, police, and other public services in response to crime.²⁷

The average cost of each crime that takes place is estimated at:

- £14,100 for a violent crime with injury/£5,900 without injury
- £5,900 for a domestic burglary
- £10,300 for a theft of a vehicle/£870 for a theft from a vehicle
- £8,400 for arson/£1,400 for other criminal damage
- £39,400 for rape and £6,500 for other sexual offences

Costs are generally higher if they relate to crimes against businesses.

Current landscape

The context in which we work to reduce crime and disorder continues to be shaped by a range of national and international developments. The following themes reflect the most significant pressures and changes currently influencing community safety in Brighton & Hove.

²⁷ [Home Office Research Paper - The economic and social costs of crime, 2018](#). Based on costs in 2015/16.

Cost of Living and Community Resilience

The cost of living crisis continues to have a profound impact on residents across Brighton & Hove. Financial hardship and poverty have intensified since 2023, driven by inflation, energy costs, and the ongoing effects of the war in Ukraine. These pressures are compounding the challenges that emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic, with many individuals and families now facing more complex and entrenched needs.

Communities are reporting increased levels of stress, isolation, and vulnerability, particularly among those already experiencing disadvantage. The rising cost of housing in the city remains a significant barrier to stability, especially for those on lower incomes. Inadequate or insecure housing can contribute to a range of issues, including increased risk of offending, exploitation, and poor health outcomes.

The voluntary and community sector continues to play a vital role in supporting residents, but demand for services is growing. There is a need for continued innovation and collaboration to ensure that services remain accessible and responsive, particularly for those most affected by poverty, inequality, trauma, and exclusion.

National police statistics highlight that, between the year ending March 2024 and the year ending March 2025, police recorded fraud and computer misuse (up 2%), drugs trafficking/supply (up 28%) and sexual offences (up 11%) had all increased, while robbery (down 3%), knife and sharp implement-related crimes (down 1%), violence with injury (down 7%) had decreased²⁸.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) highlighted a significant increase in people reporting being victims of fraud in the year ending March 2025, primarily due to increases in consumer/retail fraud and bank/credit account fraud.

Partnership Capacity

The capacity of statutory and voluntary partners to meet rising and increasingly complex needs is under significant strain. Years of reduced funding for public services have left many organisations operating with limited resources, even as demand continues to grow.

Community safety partners - including the police, local authority, health services, and the voluntary sector - are working within a context of constrained budgets and heightened expectations. The complexity of need, particularly among individuals facing overlapping vulnerabilities such as mental health challenges, substance misuse, and housing instability, demands coordinated, multi-agency responses that are difficult to sustain at scale.

²⁸ [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) webpage - Crime in England and Wales](#). The ONS note that statistics on police recorded sexual offences are not a good indicator of trends over time, due to improvements in recording practices and increased reporting by victims in recent years.

While the city benefits from a strong foundation of partnership working, the system is under pressure. Sustained investment in prevention, early intervention, and trauma-informed practice is critical to prevent escalation, protect public trust, and maintain community safety.

Community Cohesion

Community cohesion remains a key priority for Brighton & Hove. The city is proud of its diversity and its status as a City of Sanctuary and an anti-racist city, but recent events have highlighted how fragile social trust can be in the face of national and global tensions. The terror attack on a synagogue in Manchester and the arson attack on a mosque in Peacehaven have had a ripple effect locally, heightening fear and anxiety among Jewish and Muslim communities. These incidents have unfolded alongside a wider rise in online misinformation, national increases in hate crime, and growing activity from far-right groups.

Locally, reports of hate incidents and community tensions have increased, including concerns about the politicisation of national symbols and the impact of divisive narratives circulating online. These developments underline the need for clear and visible leadership, coordinated partnership action, and a renewed commitment to promoting inclusion, challenging hate, and supporting those affected by discrimination and harassment.

The national threat level remains at 'substantial', meaning an attack is likely. This reinforces the importance of continued vigilance and strong partnership working to safeguard communities and uphold the city's values of tolerance, respect and safety.

Community cohesion underpins every aspect of community safety in Brighton & Hove. Global conflict, national political rhetoric, and the amplification of harmful online narratives directly affect trust, feelings of safety, and relationships between communities. Strengthening cohesion is therefore essential to preventing escalation, reducing harm and supporting the wellbeing of those most affected by these pressures.

The Partnership will continue to work closely with residents, faith groups, schools, community organisations, and the One Voice Partnership to promote dialogue, reduce tensions and challenge misinformation. Visible leadership, shared messaging and coordinated community reassurance will remain central to maintaining safety, confidence and social resilience across the city.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The landscape of local governance is also shifting. The proposed devolution deal for the region is expected to transfer new powers and resources to a directly elected mayor in the coming years. This includes potential implications for community safety, with responsibilities for crime reduction, policing oversight, and public health likely to be shaped at a regional level.

At the same time, discussions around local government reorganisation (LGR) raise questions about how services will be delivered across new and potentially non-coterminous

boundaries. Brighton & Hove's unique geography, population density, and community needs must be carefully considered in any future governance arrangements.

There is a risk that changes to boundaries or governance structures could disrupt existing partnerships or dilute the city's ability to respond to local priorities. It will be essential to ensure that any new arrangements protect the integrity of local services, maintain accountability, and reflect the diversity and complexity of our communities.

Crime and Policing Bill

The proposed **Crime and Policing Bill** introduces a number of significant changes that will shape the future of community safety and local enforcement powers in the city. While the Bill is still progressing through Parliament, its provisions signal a shift in the national approach to crime prevention, policing, and public order.

Key elements of the Bill include:

- **Expanded powers for police and local authorities to manage protests**, including new offences for obstruction of highways, serious annoyance, and interference with infrastructure. Police will be empowered to set conditions on protests such as noise limits, routes, and timings.
- **New offences related to serious violence prevention**, including child criminal exploitation, coerced internal concealment, and cuckooing. These are designed to strengthen safeguarding and early intervention efforts.
- **Introduction of Respect Orders** to replace existing civil injunctions for persistent antisocial behaviour, alongside enhanced police powers to tackle ASB, including stop and search without suspicion in designated areas.
- **Stricter knife crime measures**, such as age verification for online sales, powers to seize bladed articles from private property, and personal liability for platform managers failing to remove illegal content.
- **Retail crime protections**, including a new offence of assaulting retail workers and the repeal of Section 176 of the 2014 Act, restoring police response to low-value shop theft.
- **Greater emphasis on data sharing between agencies**, particularly in support of the proposed **Serious Violence Duty**, which would place a legal requirement on specified authorities-including the council, police, health, and education bodies-to collaborate in preventing and reducing serious violence.
- **Victim support enhancements**, including stronger victim impact statements and expanded post-sentence supervision.

For **Brighton & Hove**, the implications of the Bill are wide-ranging. The city has a strong tradition of protest and civic activism, and any changes to the regulation of public demonstrations will need to be carefully managed to uphold both public safety and the right to peaceful protest.

The **Serious Violence Duty** aligns with existing partnership work but may require additional coordination, data infrastructure, and resourcing to meet new statutory obligations. This includes adapting multi-agency safeguarding frameworks and ensuring robust data-sharing protocols across services.

The Bill also intersects with our existing priorities around serious violence, exploitation, and community cohesion. It reinforces the need for a **whole-system approach** to prevention, early intervention, and safeguarding-particularly for young people and those at risk of harm. Local authorities will need to update enforcement protocols, train frontline staff, and prepare for increased operational pressures, including sentence inflation and prison overcrowding.

Finally, the Bill's overlap with **local government reorganisation and devolution**-including the anticipated mayoral authority-means councils must ensure community safety responsibilities are clearly defined and not diluted by boundary change

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Identifying and progressing priorities

Strategic Assessment and Priority Setting

This strategy has been informed by a refreshed Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety, completed in 2025. The assessment draws on the latest data and feedback from across the partnership, providing a comprehensive picture of crime, safety, and community wellbeing in Brighton & Hove. This has informed the setting of our priorities, and the plans for how to progress these. Ongoing and dynamic feedback from our communities through delivering workstreams and strategic leads is included currently, with further consultations in train.

Following this review, we have agreed to retain the existing five strategic priority areas. However, each has been thoroughly updated and revitalised to reflect the current context, emerging trends, and recent policy developments-including the national focus on community cohesion, the implications of the Crime and Policing Bill, Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation.

Our Strategic Priorities

The priorities in this strategy focus on areas where partnership working is essential to achieving meaningful progress. They reflect both national and local priorities and are particularly focused on areas where the impact on victims is high and where collaborative action adds the greatest value.

The five strategic priority areas for 2023–2026 are:

- **Serious violence, drugs, and exploitation**
- **Domestic abuse, sexual violence, and violence against women and girls (VAWG)**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Hate incidents and crimes**
- **Prevent (Preventing terrorism and extremism)**

Considerations Around Resources

Public sector budgets remain under significant pressure, and difficult decisions continue to be made about how to allocate limited resources. The tension between investing in prevention and responding to harm after it occurs remains a central challenge.

Without sustained investment in prevention, there is a risk that long-term problems will escalate, placing further strain on services and communities. Partnership resources currently support a skilled and experienced workforce. Any reduction in financial support risks disrupting continuity and undermining the progress made to date - rebuilding this capacity would require significant time and effort.

Given the continuing pressures on public sector budgets and increasing complexity of need, the Partnership will adopt a clearer prioritisation framework to focus limited resources on areas of highest harm and vulnerability. This approach will incorporate risk-based decision-making, transparency about what can be delivered, and open communication with communities and partners about resource allocation. Where pressures may impact service delivery, we will work collectively to identify mitigations and advocate for sustained investment in prevention.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Our Work

Each priority area in this strategy sets out the outcomes we aim to achieve through coordinated partnership action. Detailed action plans will be developed for each theme, outlining specific activities, delivery responsibilities and timescales. Progress will be monitored through the relevant thematic steering groups, with overall strategic oversight provided by the Community Safety Partnership Board.

We recognise that no single crime or safety indicator can fully capture the complexity of the issues facing our communities. For this reason, we will use a balanced suite of performance measures for each priority area, combining quantitative data, qualitative insight, and community feedback to build a more rounded understanding of impact. This will enable us to identify emerging risks earlier, understand what is working, and ensure our responses remain evidence-based and proportionate.

All data will be interpreted with care, acknowledging limitations in reporting, recording practices, and under-representation of some communities. Our aim is to ensure that decision-making is driven by high-quality evidence and reflects the lived experiences of those most affected by harm.

Clear and consistent communication with residents is essential to maintaining trust, reducing fear of crime, and countering misinformation. The Partnership will strengthen coordinated public messaging across all priority areas - including serious violence, ASB, VAWG, hate incidents and Prevent - to ensure communities receive accurate information about risks, available support and partnership action. Targeted reassurance campaigns will be used to support communities disproportionately affected by harm or by narratives that increase fear or vulnerability.

Relevant work of key partners

There are several statutory agencies whose core business is to tackle crime – the police, youth offending service, courts, probation and prison services are some significant ones. The work of other agencies, for example schools, health and social services, is also key to reducing the ‘drivers’ of crime.

The Community Safety Strategy does not operate in isolation; it is embedded within a network of local and national policies that collectively shape safer, fairer communities. This strategy both supports and is supported by complementary frameworks, ensuring alignment and coherence across priorities. Key policies and strategies are summarised below. These connections are critical to achieving the objectives of the Community Safety Strategy. While this document acknowledges these interdependencies, detailed exploration sits within the respective strategies to maintain clarity of purpose and statutory focus.



Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan

The City Council's [Corporate Plan](#) sets out the overarching priorities for Brighton & Hove, including a commitment to creating a safe, healthy, and inclusive city. Community safety and cohesion are embedded within this vision, recognising that reducing crime and anti-social behaviour is fundamental to improving quality of life and supporting economic and social wellbeing. The Corporate Plan emphasises partnership working, prevention, and early intervention-aligning closely with the objectives of this strategy. By integrating community safety into broader goals such as housing, health, and sustainability, the plan ensures that tackling crime and its drivers is part of a holistic approach to building resilient communities.

Fair and Inclusive Plan and the Role of Key Partners

The [Council's Fair and Inclusive Plan](#) underpins efforts to address inequality and promote equity across all services. This includes tackling disproportionality in the criminal justice system and ensuring that interventions are accessible and culturally competent.

Anti Racist City

Brighton & Hove City Council's commitment to becoming an anti-racist city, formalised through its **Anti-Racism Strategy 2023–2028**, underpins the principles of the **Community Safety Strategy** by embedding equity and inclusion into all aspects of public safety. The anti-racist strategy focuses on three pillars: **community engagement**, **data-driven accountability**, and **policy reform**, ensuring that the voices and experiences of Black and racially minoritised communities shape decision-making. This aligns directly with the Community Safety Strategy's objectives to tackle hate incidents, build trust, and create safer neighbourhoods through collaborative approaches with residents and partners.

Adolescent services

Brighton & Hove's work with young people who are engaged in criminal behaviour is part of the council's Adolescent Service. The Service also provides support and safeguarding tailored to adolescents and those transitioning to adulthood, including multi-agency work to address risk connected with exploitation.

The priorities for the Complex Adolescent Strategy are as follows:

- To continue to embed Contextual Safeguarding practice to best meet the needs of these children;
- Increase participation and the voice of the child; and
- To continue the anti-racist journey and address issues of disproportionality.

This work is overseen by the Adolescent Strategic Management Board

Adult and child safeguarding

The city's multi-agency [Safeguarding Adults Board](#) works across agencies to raise awareness and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults and enable people to live safe and secure lives.

The [Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) co-ordinates work by all agencies and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Other targeted strategies

The [A Fairer Brighton & Hove – disadvantage strategy framework 2022-25](#) lays out how the city can identify, respond to, and support the needs of families at risk of disadvantage, especially those who have been affected by the cost-of-living increase.

The [Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2021-26](#) highlights personal safety, online safety and hate crime as areas for attention in the Relationships, Friendships and Feeling Safe workstream.

Combating Drugs Partnership

The ten-year national [Drugs Strategy](#) has the aim of 'cutting crime and saving lives' through breaking the supply chain, treatment and recovery and reducing the demand for drugs. The purpose of the Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) is to bring together local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery, and prevention to provide oversight and direction to the development and delivery of a combating drugs strategy and delivery plan for Brighton & Hove. [The Strategy](#) has the following priorities:

- Provide safe, supportive, and stigma-free access to treatment and recovery services for people experiencing harms from drugs and or alcohol
- Reduce the supply of illegal drugs into our city
- Help address the primary causes of drug and alcohol use

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

There is a regional strategic plan on IOM, and national operational guidance for the management of adult offenders to reduce reoffending adhered to locally. This sets out how police, probation, courts, prisons, health, local authorities, and others can support the needs of offenders.

Cyber crime

There is a joint police Surrey and Sussex Cyber Crime Unit which focuses on crimes which are enabled or perpetrated using communication technologies and the internet.

Mental health services

Many offenders have needs around mental health, often compounded by alcohol and/or drugs misuse. The Liaison and Diversion Scheme is a scheme whereby people who are

arrested or held in custody are assessed for needs around mental health, alcohol, or substance misuse, and can be referred to treatment services.

Homelessness and rough sleeping

The [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025](#) has priorities under the headings of prevention, interventions, and sustainability and is currently being updated.

Private sector housing

The licensing of private landlords includes clauses to manage anti-social behaviour.

Serious and Organised Crime

Sussex Police take the lead on tackling serious and organised crime which impacts across communities and is associated with, for example, drugs, fraud, acquisitive crime, child sexual exploitation and abuse, County Lines, modern slavery and human trafficking. The cost to society of serious and organised crime is estimated at many billions of pounds a year.²⁹

Built Environment & Place-Based Safety

The design and management of public spaces play a crucial role in preventing crime and supporting community confidence. The Partnership will strengthen collaboration with planning, regeneration, licensing and environmental services to embed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in local development and neighbourhood planning. This includes improving lighting, reducing blind spots, enhancing walking routes, and ensuring new developments consider safety from the outset.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Core business of ESFRS is to reduce the risk of and harm from fires in people's homes and in communities. They work closely with partners, including housing providers, and local communities to provide awareness and education on fire safety in the home and fit smoke alarms where appropriate.

ESFRS works in the context of a mixed and ageing housing stock, an ageing population and vulnerabilities of some residents, overlapping with key populations of interest in the wider community safety context and have a [commitment working in partnership around safeguarding](#). ESFRS have an offer of home safety visits by Safe and Well advisors, which is included in the resilience planning processes for cuckoo victims. As well as potential for target hardening to reduce future risk to the property and therefore the victim, the Safe and Well advisors are trained in identifying a wide range of health and wellbeing needs and can give general advice or refer to a range of partners to help people get the support they need.

²⁹ [Home Office Research Report, 2013: Understanding organised crime: Estimating the scale and the social and economic costs - PDF.](#)

Regulatory services

Regulatory services and other teams within the local authority, for example, environmental health, may help to address issues such as noise-related anti-social behaviour.

The police and council **licensing teams** and other responsible authorities under the Licensing Act have a responsibility to ensure the licensed premises operate in such a way that they do not cause public nuisance or compromise public safety.

Road safety

The council's long term Local Transport Plan includes goals to create streets and neighbourhoods that are safe and welcoming for people to move around and use socially.

Planning and environmental services

Brighton & Hove City Council's Planning Department oversees the development of the city's infrastructure. The [City Plan](#) includes crime and safety as one of the considerations in development plans.

As part of its work to maintain a clean city environment, services provided by **City Clean** include tackling graffiti, removing hazardous waste such as drug litter, and enforcement action around discarded waste.

Priority themes

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

Our aim: There is less harm caused to individuals and communities in our city due to serious violence, knife crime, organised crime, drugs and exploitation.

What we want to achieve

- A stronger preventative approach to serious violence and exploitation and a decrease in drug-gang related activity through the better use of all available data.
- Fewer people harmed by serious violence and preventing vulnerable people from becoming involved with organised crime networks.
- A thriving night-time economy free from drug and alcohol-related violence.
- Safeguard vulnerable children and adults who are being exploited and provide a safe pathway out of exploitation or involvement with organised crime networks.
- All parts of the community to be free of the fear of violence, drugs and exploitation, to be able to recognise of all forms of exploitation, drug harm and serious violent crime and to have confidence to report it.

Why this is a priority?

Serious violence, or the threat of violence, can have a significant negative impact on individuals and communities. It can undermine wellbeing and feelings of safety. The fear of violence and drug related crime deters residents and visitors from engaging with the city's leisure and commercial services, limiting people's lives and posing further economic costs to the city. Violent crimes with injury incur some of the highest costs on the city, impacting both the individuals and services, such as police and healthcare.

The exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults on a criminal, sexual or financial basis is of significant concern both nationally and locally, and has broader impacts on the community through violence, drug supply, acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key facts

In 2024/25 there were 2,980 police recorded violence with injury offences in the city, 2.5% more than in the previous year. A seasonal pattern in offences continues, with a noticeable peak in offences recorded in July and August 2024. These figures were close to the long-term peak recorded in 2019/20. Violence with injury in the city has close links with the night-time economy.

There were 292 serious violence crimes recorded in the city in 2024/25, a 4% yearly increase which followed an 18% increase the previous year.

In 2024/25 there were 333 robberies recorded in Brighton & Hove, 8% fewer than the previous year; business / community robberies (52 in 2024/25) continue to increase in the city.

There were 217 knife/sharp instrument crimes in the city in 2024/25; following a steady decrease since 2019/20 (326 crimes), this represented a 90% increase on the 113 recorded the previous year. There were 474 weapons possession offences recorded in 2024/25, 15% more than in the previous year and continuing yearly increases since 2020/21 (328 crimes).

Drug-related deaths in the city continue to be higher than the rate for England; while figures in 2023 and 2024 suggest small numerical decreases, this disparity in per-capita rates continues to grow.

Recorded drug possession and drug trafficking and supply offences continue to increase. This reflects local concerns around public space drug dealing but may in part be attributable to partnership work with accommodation providers in the city to ensure that instances of potential drug possession are reported to police.

In 2024/25, Sussex Police recorded 441 drug trafficking and supply offences in the city, 20% more than the previous year and a long-term peak.

There are many factors which make a person vulnerable to exploitation; people with more than one factor present significantly increases their risk. These include poor mental health, substance misuse, poverty or debt, school exclusion, experience of coercion or abuse, isolation and homelessness.

Cuckooing takes place where criminal networks establish a local base, typically by taking over the homes of vulnerable adults by force or coercion. They then use this premises to deal drugs from and recruit local children and vulnerable adults as drugs runners.

There were 27 modern slavery offences recorded by the police in 2024/25, significantly fewer than in 2023/24 but similar in number to the two previous years.

Who's affected

In 2024/25, 39% of violence with injury offences occurred in a public/open space, with a further 39% taking place in a dwelling and 10% in a hospitality venue. One in four (25%) of all police-recorded violence with injury offences also had a flag for domestic abuse.

The city's hotspot for violence with injury offences occurring outside of the home is in the city centre, with an elevated number of offences also extending away from the city along main arterial routes. Locations are often closely linked to the night-time economy, with clusters of offences in areas with a high number of licensed premises.

For violence with injury offences that were committed outside of the home, two-thirds (67%) of victims were male; two-thirds (66%) of all victims were recorded as residents of the city. The age group most likely to be victims of injury violence outside the home was 10 to 19 for females and 20 to 29 for males.

Among people attending Accident and Emergency in the city due to assault in 2024/25, 73% were male, while the most common age-group were (for both sexes) between the

ages of 20 and 25. Around 65% of A&E assault patients were recorded as residents of the city; 44% of attendances were recorded between 10pm and 4am, indicative of activity in the night-time economy.

Victims of personal robbery were overwhelmingly male (83%), with the rate of victimisation highest amongst the 10-19 age group (2.6 per 1,000 pop), and over twice the rate seen in any subsequent age group.

For drug trafficking and supply crimes recorded in 2024/25, 96% of offenders were males between the ages of 20 and 29. The hotspot for all drug offences was located in the city centre, with a hotspot that is more dispersed and covering a wider city-centre area than seen previously.

When a potential victim of trafficking is identified, a referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). In 2024/25, Sussex Police were the first responder for 74 referrals, fewer than the 89 in 2023/24 but similar in number to the two previous years. Brighton & Hove City Council made 25 referrals to the NRM in 2024/25 (4 adults, 21 children), fewer than the 33 in 2023/24 but more than in other years.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

In a context of increasing magnitude and complexity and needs across the city and reduced or static resources, it's important to target partnership efforts on the areas and issues of the highest concern and where services can have the greatest impact. Using data and the pooling of resources and local knowledge, work must be prioritised to deliver better outcomes.

There is further work to be done to understand the role and impact of social media on drug supply and youth violence, both in schools and beyond. Social media also affects perceptions of safety in society at large, and there is scope for better coordinated communications across the partnership to provide reassurance and counter-narratives to potentially inaccurate information, whilst being honest and realistic about the challenges these issues present to the city.

Over the lifetime of the 2023-26 strategy there has been improvements in the capacity of the partnership to identify children and young people at risk of involvement with drugs and serious violence, and to intervene at an earlier stage to prevent greater harm. There is still more than can be done in this area and the upcoming Young Futures Prevention Panels provides an opportunity to target a demographic currently underserved by existing local arrangements, and to bring a broader range of services into the multiagency approach.

The previous delivery plan has also influenced the city's approach to licensed premises, with the upcoming licensing policy anticipated to impose greater safety obligations on premises, especially with regard to the night-time economy, to reduce potential harm.

Our plans

Work will continue through the Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership and Combatting Drugs Partnership to ensure that local interventions are targeted to address exploitation, serious violence and drug harm.

Support work led by the city council focused on prevention including work to reduce inequality, poverty and Multiple Complex Needs.

Children and young people remain a core focus of our partnership work, especially those at risk of violence, exploitation, school exclusion or social isolation. The Partnership will seek to strengthen collaboration with education settings, youth services and safeguarding leads to improve early identification, ensure timely support, and embed trauma-informed, contextual safeguarding approaches across the system.

We will continue to develop the partnership response to Cuckooing, identifying and supporting vulnerable adults who have experienced exploitation and coercion to criminal activity, such as drug supply (including County Lines).

Developing our use of tools and powers to disrupt perpetrators of exploitation, serious violence and drug-related activity, to safeguard vulnerable people, and prevent victimisation of individuals and communities.

We will continue to develop, promote and embed a contextual approach to safeguarding across internal and external partners (including the local Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership), to prevent both children and adults becoming vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and violence, and provide support and effective routes out to those who may already be involved.

We will work to improve capacity and better reporting across the partnership to identify and support victims of exploitation and ensure consistent reporting under the Modern Slavery Act (2015).

We will work within local partnerships to further our understanding of the additional vulnerability to exploitation of those with Multiple Complex Needs and develop approaches that are better able meet these needs.

We will continue to use multiagency fora such as the Partnership Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (PTTCG) and Joint Action Group (JAG) to identify and respond to areas of concern and ensure that the relevant local partners participate in identifying emerging issues and work together to deliver solutions. We will work with partners, including police, licensing and the business community, to address the risks of violence in the night-time economy.

Data gathering across the Violence Reduction Partnership will be developed further, with analysis aimed at improving understanding of needs and potential hotspots of vulnerability, and to better identify and form responses to racial and cultural inequalities across the city. We will seek to improve data collection and analysis in key areas including knife carrying, cuckooing, and sexual exploitation.

We will address the fear of violent crime in the city by further developing communications to the community, highlighting the challenges, promoting successes and encouraging further community involvement in developing and delivering responses.

We will work with local partners to develop our structural response to Urban Street Gangs within the city. We will seek to understand the location specific factors that drive crime and ASB in identified hotspots and use intelligence and engagement from across the partnership to address the risks both to and from the individuals involved and identify and disrupt those that seek to exploit them.

Digital platforms increasingly shape how individuals are targeted, exploited, or harmed. The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - including online misogyny, image-based abuse, fraud, extremist content, youth exposure to violence, and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

Delivery will be aligned with the new Crime and Policing Bill. Actions will include:

- Review and update multi-agency safeguarding protocols to meet and deliver on new statutory requirements.
- Train staff on new offences (e.g., child criminal exploitation, coerced internal concealment, cuckooing) and expanded police powers.
- Communicate changes to frontline teams and affected communities.

Delivery will be reviewed and adapted in line with any changes to governance structures resulting from devolution or local government reorganisation. Partnership protocols will be updated to ensure continuity of multi-agency working across new boundaries, and data-sharing agreements will be refreshed to maintain compliance and effectiveness.

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Our aim: Work in partnership to tackle domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG) to reduce the harm to individuals and communities

What we want to achieve

- Develop an integrated, coordinated response to domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- Prevention of domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG by working in partnership.
- Provide support for survivors/victims.
- Hold perpetrators to account.

Why this is a priority

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) continues to be considered a national threat by Police, cross Government departments and by the new national VAWG sector. The government has acknowledged the need to improve how society responds to VAWG and has declared its mission “to halve VAWG in a decade.” Brighton & Hove City Council’s new Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028³⁰ and its three-year action plan³¹ and the creation of a new oversight board to oversee its delivery has been agreed at Cabinet. The strategy has four priorities, these are:

- Strengthening the coordinated response.
- Prioritising prevention.
- Supporting survivors.
- Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour.

The strategy was informed by a series of consultation and engagement events with the public, key stakeholders, and victims and survivors of VAWG/DA/SV³². A three-year action plan has been established to guide implementation of the strategy³³, with a series of

³⁰ [Brighton & Hove City Council: Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028 - PDF.](#)

³¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council: Preventing and tackling VAWG, DA and SV Action Plan - PDF.](#)

³² [Brighton & Hove City Council General Equality Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Form - PDF.](#)

³³ [VAWGDASV Brighton & Hove Oversight Board Terms of Reference - PDF.](#)

actions for each of the strategic priorities and this provides our framework for preventing and tackling VAWG/DA/SV locally.

Key facts

Domestic abuse is a prolific crime in the city - 10% of all police recorded crimes in 2024/25 had a domestic abuse crime flag. While all forms of domestic abuse remain under-reported to police, 5,035 domestic abuse crimes and incidents (3,068 crimes and 1,967 incidents) were recorded in 2024/25. This was 1.9% fewer than in the previous year, continuing a decreasing trend since 2019/20. In June 2023, significant changes were made to the way in which domestic abuse crimes and incidents were recorded by police nationwide. This is likely to have contributed to fewer crimes being recorded by the police since then³⁴.

In 2024/25 there were also 1,289 sexual offences recorded by police – 6.6% greater than in the previous year - of which 460 were rape offences. Sexual offences continue to be associated with the night-time economy, with higher numbers of offences recorded on Friday & Saturday nights, as well as during the week towards the end of schooldays.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2024/25 estimated that 9.1% of women and 6.5% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of domestic abuse during the year ending March 2025³⁵. Using mid-2024 population estimates, in Brighton & Hove this would equate to 11,425 women and 7,668 men in the city who had experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Using the same methodology, it is estimated that 3,766 women and 826 men in the city over 16 had experienced some form of sexual assault in 2024/25.

In 2024/25 there were 2,014 stalking and harassment offences – including the crimes of control/coercive behaviour and threatening communications - recorded in the city.

Violence against Women and Girls is an often under-reported crime type and feedback from partners continues to highlight that fear of not being believed or of not seeing timely, appropriate justice are key barriers to reporting or help seeking. This is an issue for survivors of all genders and more so for those with intersecting protected characteristics.

Who's affected

Of all police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024/25, 68% of victims were female, while the most common age group for victims was aged between 30 and 39. Seventy-nine percent of recorded perpetrators were male, and 40% of domestic abuse offences had a perpetrator who was an ex-partner of the victim.

For police recorded sexual offences, 78% of victims were female, and the most common age group for victims was between 10 and 19 years. Ninety-five percent of recorded

³⁴[Domestic Abuse Commissioner - Report about Home Office Counting Rules, April 2024 - PDF.](#)

³⁵[Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2025.](#)

perpetrators were male, and 41% of sexual offences had a perpetrator who was stranger to the victim, 30% were committed by an acquaintance and 10% were committed by an ex-partner. Eighteen percent of sexual offences were flagged as domestic abuse.

The Health Counts survey⁶ in 2024 found that over one in five respondents (21%) reported that they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted or raped. This was significantly higher for females than males (35% compared with 7%), as well as for respondents from younger age groups; from mixed / multiple ethnic groups, or who described their ethnicity as 'Other'; who are Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI); LGBTQ+; disabled; live in temporary / emergency accommodation, as well as respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city.

Whilst the number of cases discussed at the Brighton & Hove Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) decreased by 11% to 732 in 2024/25, the rate of cases per population remained significantly higher than the UK average (78 cases per 10,000 adult female population, compared with 48 per 10,000). The proportion of repeat cases has decreased in recent years (38% in 2024/25). For every case discussed at MARAC in 2024/25 there were an average of 1.2 children in the household.

In November 2024, the council published its first Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) since 2016³⁶. With the introduction of Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) which have superseded DHRs, the Community Safety Partnership are now required to review DA-related deaths by suicide where there has been a history of DA. During 2025, the Community Safety Partnership has commissioned 6 DARDRs. Of these, three are suicide related deaths. This is a significant emerging trend which will inform how we develop our local response to VAWG. It is aligned to the health inequalities associated with the experience of VAWG which is known to impact on mental wellbeing across a life course. DA is now part of the Councils suicide prevention workstream.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Drawing on the successes and lessons learned from the previous VAWG Strategy and the Community Safety Strategy, we have co-produced and agreed a new Preventing and Tackling VAWG/DA/SV Strategy for the city. This process has enabled us to identify four key cross-cutting themes that shape this section of the draft Community Safety Strategy for VAWG and underpin our future actions.

Key Priorities Identified Through Consultation

- **Safety in public spaces** – We will work with local businesses, licensing authorities, and non-frontline staff to create safer environments throughout the day and night. This includes revising the Licensing Policy, engaging sectors such as hospitality and tattoo parlours, and supporting initiatives that reduce harassment and violence in public spaces and extend our reach by working with the Business Growth Team.

³⁶ [Brighton & Hove City Council - Published domestic homicide reviews \(DHRs\)](#)

- **Mental health support for those affected by VAWG** – We will strengthen trauma-informed pathways and ensure survivors have access to timely, culturally sensitive mental health services. This includes closer integration between specialist VAWG services and mainstream provision, alongside multi-agency training to improve identification and referral. We welcome the firm directives and funding for the health sector in the governments Freedom from Violence Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 and planned revision of the NICE Guidelines which support Health to undertake its crucial role in the prevention of VAWG.
- **Equalities and Inclusion.** We will continue to ensure that all those affected by VAWG are provided with an appropriate response and work to improve the system response via our Community of Practice.
- **Effective communications to raise awareness and improve understanding** – We will deliver targeted campaigns, PSHE education initiatives, and community engagement activities to challenge harmful attitudes and promote available support. Communications will be clear, consistent, and inclusive, ensuring survivors and partners are informed about changes in statutory duties and local services.
- **Encouraging disclosures to the police** – We will build trust and confidence in reporting by improving victim support pathways, training officers in trauma-informed practice, and working with community organisations to address barriers to disclosure. This will include updating impact statement procedures and ensuring survivors understand their rights under the Domestic Abuse Act and Crime and Policing Bill provisions.

The updated VAWG Strategy and these priorities have informed the draft actions within the Community Safety Plan. By embedding these themes across all areas of delivery, we ensure that the complex and nuanced nature of VAWG, DA, and SV is fully reflected in both frontline practice and strategic planning.

Our plans

Our new governance structure and membership under the new VAWG/DA/SV Board will continue to work in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector partners to deliver the aims of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

Continue to share the learning from our recent DHR to improve how Treatment Services identify young people using abusive behaviour in their relationships and train frontline staff to be confident to identify the harm caused by DA.

We will continue to work with partners to improve the VAWG/DA/SV response to those affected by multiple disadvantage including those who have been exploited in cuckooing situations. This will facilitate effective partnership working, make best use of resources, and ensure multi-agency support and response pathways work efficiently

Continue to monitor the local implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 via coordination of the services that provide support in safe accommodation.

We welcome the governments Freedom from Violence and Abuse Strategy and its commitment to a “whole of society” approach and treating VAWG as a national emergency. In addition, its commitment to tackling misogyny, supporting all survivors, and firm stand on making perpetrators accountable and will ensure we align our local response by supporting our partners in Health and Education to achieve its ambition for those service areas

With regard to the Crime and Policing Bill, the provisions on victim support and expanded post-sentence supervision will be incorporated into partnership responses for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Specific actions will include

- Update victim support pathways and impact statement procedures.
- Provide training on new legal obligations for safeguarding and perpetrator management.
- Ensure communications to survivors and partners reflect changes in statutory duties.
- We will conduct a mapping exercise of all services.
- We will continue to offer multi-agency training to provide staff with appropriate training and resources to identify VAWG and signpost appropriately
- We will continue to work with communities including young people in education to ensure that everyone is provided with awareness raising materials and support if required.
- We will continue to work with local businesses to improve safety in public spaces throughout the day and night including Tattoo Parlours

Work in partnership to prevent VAWG

- We will ensure the learning and recommendations from the DARDRs are shared and implemented by setting up a DARDR Oversight Board with key partners to effect change and monitor progress.
- We will continue to work with subregional partners to maximise VAWG/DA/SV resources to ensure increased public awareness of VAWG/DA/SV.
- We will work with the Community Safety Partnership to deliver VAWG/DA/SV awareness via activities and communications aimed at younger people and, where appropriate, incorporate into Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education.
- We will develop our relationship with local businesses and work with the Business Growth Board to disseminate information to support those working locally to access safety and support.
- Continue to work with Licensing to revise the Licensing Policy and, where practicable, to combat sexual harassment
- Continue to work with the pan-Sussex Domestic Abuse Board and Sexual Violence Board on pan-Sussex initiatives

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- We will invite Sussex Police to our local training and Community of Practice to ensure a shared understanding of VAWG and local recourses and responses.
- We will continue to enable colocation of VAWG/DA/SV specialists in places where they are more accessible to those that require their services.
- Develop an improved dataset for improved insights to understand local needs and improve service delivery
- We will continue to commission support services for those affected by VAWG across risk levels
- Ensure that high quality trauma-informed service pathways providing coordinated and accessible interventions and support are available.
- Ensure that the voice of survivors/victims of is central to service development
- The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - including online misogyny, image-based abuse and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.
- Continue to develop the MARAC in line with national best practice
- Continue to work with national and regional partners to develop the Pan Sussex Reciprocal Housing Arrangements
- Continue to support VAWG/DA/SV provider services to work together collaboratively to tackle VAWG/DA/SV and to ensure there are clear routes to safety for all survivors.
- The partnership will ensure that statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and victim support are maintained and strengthened under any new governance arrangements associated with devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Cross-boundary working groups will be established if required, and oversight mechanisms will be aligned with new regional structures.

Hold perpetrators to account

- Strengthen the criminal and civil justice response to perpetrators and develop sustainable effective interventions and preventative programmes to change perpetrator behaviour.
- We will continue to challenge the attitudes that underpin VAWG /DA/SV via sharing targeted campaigns
- Continue to support and monitor the Sussex Specialist Domestic Abuse Court
- Continue to work with Sussex Police to deliver and review MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination)
- We will develop an enhanced response to disrupt perpetrators who are known to MARAC

Anti-social behaviour

Our aim: Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is reduced and causes less harm to individuals, businesses and communities, and trust and confidence in the community response by those impacted by ASB is increased

Definition:

Anti-social behaviour is:

(a) conduct that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person

or

(b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises

What we want to achieve

- Reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) is assessed and responded to appropriately and consistently, making best use of resources.
- Harm caused by ASB to our most vulnerable residents and ASB in vulnerable geographical locations is reduced.
- ASB committed by priority and repeat perpetrators is reduced, making best use of tools and powers available.
- ASB, risk and harm associated with the street community and unauthorised encampments is reduced using supportive interventions and, where necessary, enforcement.
- Youth ASB is identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity using supportive interventions and diversionary activities, and enforcement where necessary.

Successes are communicated to key partners and communities while encouraging and supporting people to report ASB to appropriate services.

Why this is a priority

ASB causes significant harm to communities and has a negative impact on people's lives and feelings of wellbeing in their homes and places of work, as well as in public places.

The Community Safety Partnership has a responsibility to do all that it reasonably can to reduce the harm caused by ASB.

Key facts

In 2024/25 there were 5,365 police recorded ASB incidents in the city, 10% greater than in 2023/24. This continues a steady increase in recorded ASB since 2022/23 but remains lower than the longer-term average, including the peak recorded in 2020/21 associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Across England and Wales, by comparison, police recorded ASB

decreased by around 1%, while the proportion of people reporting having personally experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area remained similar³⁷.

In 2024/25, 44% of police recorded ASB incidents in the city were recorded as 'rowdy nuisance – inconsiderate', 22% were 'rowdy nuisance – neighbour' related, and 13% as 'vehicle related nuisance'. In 2024/25 there were 2,342 police recorded criminal damage and arson offences in the city, continuing a gradual decrease since 2019/20. Criminal damage against dwellings increased by 6% while criminal damage against businesses decreased by 4%. The number of reports of ASB received by Brighton & Hove City Council's Community Safety Casework Team decreased by 22% to 327 incidents in 2024/25, from which 54% were referred to other services and 39% resolved by the team itself. In 2024/25 there were 76 reports to the Community Safety Casework Team of ASB related to the street community, a significant reduction on the number recorded in the previous year (118 reported incidents).

Incidents of ASB recorded by the local authority's Housing team in 2024/25 increased by 16% to 785 incidents, with verbal abuse, harassment and/or intimidation, domestic violence/abuse and noise the most common complaints.

There were 1,486 recorded instances of fly-tipping recorded by the council's City Environment Team in 2024/25, similar in number to the previous year.

Who's affected

Of the city's council housing tenants in 2025, those involved in ASB (as victims and/or perpetrators) are more likely to be living alone, living in a flat, aged under 18, disabled and/or from the LGBTQ+ community.

The most frequent hotspots for police recorded ASB incidents are primarily located in the city centre and include New Road, St. James's Street, Queens Road, Western Road, and West Street. Data from the Community Safety Casework Team showed that between April 2023 to March 2025, Kemptown and Regency wards have had the greatest number of incidents recorded by the team, followed by Preston Park, Central Hove and Queen's Park.

The city's Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) recorded that more ASB relating to children and young people takes place in the summer months, while aggressive begging and reports of repeated nuisance individuals also affect businesses throughout the year. The BCRP report that in places like fast food areas and queues, there were more reports of ASB escalating into physical violence.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Over the course of the 2023-26 strategy there was a strengthening in partnership working to address ASB and a reduction in blockers to multi-agency working (e.g. GDPR challenges to information sharing). There was also a reduction in silo working with better and more

³⁷ [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics, March 2025 edition.](#)

timely sharing of community intelligence across partner (e.g. engagement with schools and businesses). This earlier intelligence and information sharing providing for earlier intervention and preventing the further escalation of complex issues. It also allowed for greater involvement of partner agencies, meaning ASB enforcement wasn't not solely police led. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) positive engagement with the community to build trust and confidence.

That said, there is still work to be done to more quickly identify and engage with children involved in ASB. There can also be delayed recognition, so addressing, of the risk and vulnerability among these children. There is also an issue in the delayed consequences for perpetrators, resulting to in greater ASB/deterioration in situations for the community, but this is in partly due to criminal justice processes which are beyond the control of BHCC and partners.

Our plans

The local authority and police will continue to co-ordinate strategic work to tackle ASB across the city together with our key partners. We will monitor any government communication regarding their crime and disorder priorities and action accordingly.

The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced powers which we will continue to make full use of where appropriate and necessary to do so. We will also use restorative practice and mediation where appropriate to reduce harm and will implement the Home Office guidance that we must "put victims first".

The monthly Joint Action Group will agree and review Community Safety Partnership operational priorities and ensure that available resources are appropriately deployed in our highest harm areas.

We will ensure that work undertaken to address ASB associated with public place drug use is aligned with the new Drug and Alcohol strategy.

We will align our enforcement activity in relation to those with multiple compound needs with the work of the council's Multiple Compound Needs programme integration between enforcement activity and the holistic support offer to those with multiple compound needs.

We will support work led by the city council focused on prevention including work to reduce inequality, poverty and compound needs.

Partnership work to address the harm caused by ASB associated with the street community, tented encampments and occupied vehicles will continue, as will work to intervene early in youth ASB and stop the young people involved causing serious harm and becoming prolific offenders.

The Partnership will deepen engagement with hospitality, retail, tourism, transport and other business sectors to improve reporting, strengthen intelligence sharing, and coordinate responses to ASB, violence and hate incidents. We will work with business networks to reduce harm linked to the night-time economy and ensure staff have clear routes to support and guidance.

We will strengthen our approach to both one-off and persistent ASB incidents by prioritising hotspot areas and proactively managing displacement risks.

The multi-agency ASB Task force will continue its work to address and reduce ASB on Council estates, and BHCC will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, targeting repeat offenders.

We will review learning and recommendations from the ongoing ASB Housing Scrutiny Task and Finish group.

The monthly Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will manage the harm caused to victims of ASB and address the behaviour of priority and repeat perpetrators. Perpetrators will be offered supportive interventions to address their behaviour, and enforcement will be used when necessary.

The Community Safety Team will continue to provide advice, guidance and training to a wide range of professionals, for example, social workers, local social housing and supported accommodation providers, on best practice in addressing ASB and reducing harm.

Work with partners, whether from the community, voluntary or statutory sector is central to our effectiveness. This includes keeping in close communication with elected members and residents through Local Action Teams and residents' and community groups, feeding back successes and building trust and confidence in statutory services.

The Crime and Policing Bill will introduce Respect Orders and enhanced enforcement mechanisms to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour, alongside expanded police powers. Partnership actions will include:

- Train staff and raise community awareness on new Respect Orders and stop-and-search powers.
- Review enforcement protocols and ASB case management processes.
- Inform the public and partners about changes to ASB enforcement.

In response to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation ASB response teams will work closely with the new regional authorities to ensure both the needs of the city are met and the delivery of consistent standards and approaches. Local intelligence-sharing and operational coordination will be maintained through joint action groups, regardless of changes to administrative boundaries.

Hate incidents and crimes

Our aim: An increase in reporting and trust and confidence in statutory services response, and a reduction in hate incidents and crimes and the harm they cause to individuals and communities

What we want to achieve

- Trust and confidence in local services is increased so that individuals and communities feel confident in reporting to and engaging with those services.
- Persons impacted by or concerned about hate incidents understand the definition of hate incidents or crimes, know how to report them and have a range of reporting options.
- Reported hate incidents and crimes are assessed and responded to appropriately and consistently, making best use of resources
- Ensure that the harm caused by hate incidents and crimes to our most vulnerable residents and in identified high impact geographical locations is reduced.
- Hate Incidents and crimes committed by priority and repeat perpetrators are reduced, making best use of tools and powers available.
- Progress is communicated to key partners and communities.

Why this is a priority

Those harmed by incidents and crimes where people are targeted, for example, of a disability, their ethnicity or race, religion or faith, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity tell us that it has a significant impact on their quality of life, wellbeing and feelings of safety. People harmed by hate crimes are often more emotionally affected than persons harmed by other types of crime.

Many hate incidents and crimes go unreported due to one or numerous factors including not being confident knowing what a hate incident or crime is, not knowing where or how to report one, a lack of trust in authorities to act or a belief that victim(s) will not see justice. This has been exacerbated by the pressures on community cohesion caused by a number of factors, including concerns around migration and the campaign to fly St. George's flags from lampposts and other structures in public spaces, the Supreme Court Ruling on the definition of sex and the Israel - Gaza Palestine violence. Rarely in recent history has community cohesion faced as many simultaneous and severe challenges.

Recent feedback from the city's One Voice Partnership has provided powerful first-hand accounts of these challenges, identifying antisemitism, Islamophobia, transphobia, and misogyny as key issues affecting many residents. Against this backdrop, the city's equality commitments and its work to become an anti-racism city and the implementation of its associated delivery plan remains a critical component in ensuring the effective delivery of the Community Safety Strategy.

Key facts

In 2024/25 most forms of hate crime and incident in the city increased compared with 2023/24. Sussex Police recorded 728 racist hate crimes and incidents (up 20%), 431 hate crimes and incidents motivated by perceived sexuality (41% increase), 150 religiously motivated hate crimes and incidents (up 26%), 105 hate crimes and incidents motivated by gender identity (up 17%), and 53 hate crimes and incidents motivated by disability (down 22%). The long-term increase in recorded hate crimes and incidents motivated by race, religion, sexuality and gender identity in the city therefore continued, following decreases in some forms of hate crime and incident in 2023/24. Nationally, whilst there has been an increase in the number of police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion, most other forms of hate crime and incident have decreased since reaching a long-term high in 2021/22.

Across most forms of police-recorded hate crime and incident a seasonal pattern can be observed, particularly for hate crimes motivated by race and sexuality during the summer months where public events like Pride take place. For forms of hate crime and incident motivated by disability or religion, this seasonal pattern became less pronounced over 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Offensive graffiti data collated by Brighton & Hove City Council's City Environment Team showed 116 reported instances of explicitly offensive graffiti in 2024/25 – likely a significant underestimate of its true extent in the city – of which anti-faith, generally offensive imagery, political and racist graffiti were the most common types.

The Community Safety Casework Team received 52 reports of hate incidents in 2024/25, fewer than in 2022/23 (92 reports) and 2023/24 (79 reports). This had been driven by a decrease in recorded incidents relating to hate motivated by race – the most commonly recorded form of hate incident – whilst those motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity have both increased in the first six months of 2025/26.

The hotspots for police recorded hate crimes motivated by both race and sexuality in 2024/25 were in the city-centre, in an area including part of North Laine, the south lanes, as well as Old Steine and part of Kemptown. Repeat locations for hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25 were often linked to protest locations in the city.

Who's affected

Analysis of hate crime data in the city highlighted that public/open spaces were the most common location type for hate crimes motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. Hate crime motivated by sexual orientation showed some association with the night-time economy with peaks on Saturday night and Sunday morning and Sunday evening. No clear patterns were seen in racist offences, though peaks in offences were seen around the end of each school day.

Males were recorded as victims in 72% of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation, 68% of racist offences and 51% of religiously motivated hate crimes³⁸. When examining relationships to a victim, 79% of hate crimes were committed by a stranger in those motivated by religion, 75% of racist hate crimes and 74% of gender identity-motivated hate crimes. Disability motivated hate crimes, contrastingly, were more likely than other types of hate crime to be perpetrated by an acquaintance (53%).

The current situation in Israel and Gaza is impacting community cohesion locally and has led to an increase in reported hate incidents. Of police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25, 66% were recorded as anti-Jewish and 20% as Islamophobic. Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George's flag campaign, the Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex, and the terrorist attack on Israel followed by the conflict in Gaza-is placing significant strain on community cohesion. These tensions are heightening the risk of hate incidents and public disorder, as demonstrated by the terrorist attack at the Manchester Synagogue on 2 October 2025 and, closer to home, the arson attack on Peacehaven Mosque on 4 October. The challenges to cohesion are both substantial and immediate. Despite severe resource constraints, our response must be robust, proportionate to the threat, and grounded in resilience and unity.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Following a move away from Third Party Reporting Centres) we have become more dependent on hate crime reporting to the Police to monitor both the volume and nature of hate crime and incidents. The higher threshold at which an incident constitutes a crime means that the volume of recorded hate crime will always be lower than the volume of hate incidents occurring. As such there is a consensus that the loss of Third Party Reporting Centres may well have resulted in an under reporting, so under appreciation both of the volume and nature of hate incidents occurring across the city. There is a specific concern that the fear of hate incidents experienced by TNBI groups is under reported and insufficiently recognised.

It's also important to recognise that as a resort or destination city Brighton & Hove attracts significant numbers of visitors from outside of the city, some of whom will perpetrate hate crime or incidents. Crime reporting data suggests that 20-30% of those committing hate crimes motivated by the sexual orientation or race of their victim reside outside of Brighton & Hove, so activity to address these behaviours needs to be outward as well as inward of the city looking.

Our plans

The local authority and police will continue to co-ordinate strategic work to tackle Hate Crimes and Incidents across the city together with our key partners.

³⁸ Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in understanding hate crime data.

We will increase awareness of what a hate incident or crime is and how and where to report them. BHCC will seek alternative ways of promoting third party reporting.

We will further promote the reporting of hate incidents by promoting a better understanding of what constitutes a hate incident and recognition that an incident doesn't have to cross the threshold of becoming a crime to be usefully and legitimately reported.

The monthly Joint Action Group will agree and review Community Safety Partnership operational priorities and ensure that available resources are appropriately deployed in our highest harm areas.

The monthly Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will manage the harm caused to victims of Hate Incidents and address the behaviour of priority and repeat perpetrators. Perpetrators will be offered supportive interventions to address their behaviour, and enforcement will be used when necessary.

The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced powers which we will continue to make full use of where appropriate and necessary to do so. We will also use restorative practice and mediation where appropriate to reduce harm and will implement the Home Office guidance that we must "put victims first".

We will continue to monitor relevant intelligence and community tensions given national and international conflict and coordinate a necessary partnership response.

The Community Cohesion Team will continue to provide advice, guidance and training to a wide range of professionals, for example, social workers, local social housing and supported accommodation providers, on best practice in addressing Hate Incidents, supporting victims and reducing harm, and will continue focused work to strengthen links between diverse communities.

The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - including online misogyny, image-based abuse, youth exposure to violence, and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

The Community Safety Partnership will seek to better engage with Businesses to promote inclusion and cohesion by better identifying and challenging hate incidents, especially those perpetrated by non-resident visitors to the city.

Support and deliver the One Voice Partnership ensuring lived experience informs decision-making and shapes responses to challenges such as antisemitism, Islamophobia, transphobia, and misogyny.

Implement the Fair and Inclusive Action Plan, driving better outcomes for key groups, including women and TNBI (Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex people), through targeted actions and measurable progress.

Deliver the Anti-Racism Strategy and embed anti-racist principles across the city's policies and practices to strengthen community cohesion and equality.

BHCC will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, prioritising the removal of offensive graffiti.

As part of the anticipated changes to Stop and Search powers under the Crime and Policing Bill, work will be undertaken to deepen understanding and enhance current approaches.

Working with partners, whether from the community, voluntary or statutory sector, including safeguarding agencies, is central to our work. This will include keeping in close communication with elected members, residents and community groups, feeding back successes and building trust and confidence in statutory services.

The Partnership will deepen engagement with hospitality, retail, tourism, transport and other business sectors to improve reporting, strengthen intelligence sharing, and coordinate responses to hate incidents. We will work with business networks to reduce harm linked to the night-time economy and ensure staff have clear routes to support and guidance.

Above and beyond this BHCC will, with its partners, seek opportunities to actively rebuild cohesion and trust across communities to repair the fractures caused by recent pressures and challenges.

With regard to the Crime and Policing Bill, the strengthened powers to address hate crime and public disorder will be embedded in partnership delivery, ensuring robust response and compliance. Specific actions will include:

- Update hate crime response protocols and reporting mechanisms.
- Train staff on new offences and enforcement powers.
- Communicate changes to community groups and statutory partners.

Hate crime monitoring and response will be embedded within any new governance frameworks related to devolution and Local Government reorganisation, with clear lines of accountability and reporting. Community engagement structures will be reviewed to ensure representation and support for all communities across new boundaries.

Prevent (counter terrorism and extremism)

Our aim: Individuals, institutions and communities are resilient to all forms of terrorism and extremism; harm is reduced, and people have higher levels of trust and confidence in Prevent

What we want to achieve

- Terrorisms and extremisms are better understood, and frontline staff, partners and communities are better equipped to challenge them.
- Individuals susceptible to being drawn into terrorism and extremism are identified at an early stage and supported to reduce risk.
- Individuals at risk of re-engaging in terrorism related activities are identified and supported to reduce risks and rehabilitation.
- Key sectors and institutions are better able to manage risks, and work in partnership to reduce permissive spaces, to disrupt radicalising influences (including those who promote it).
- Improved compliance with the Prevent Duty is achieved.
- Community cohesion is supported, and our communities have better resilience to the challenges posed by international, national, and local critical incidents, better manage, and reduce the risk of harm caused to individuals and communities.

Why this is a priority

Prevent is a statutory duty requiring 'specified authorities' 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The Channel Duty requires susceptible individuals to be identified early and supported before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.

Terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. Terrorist threat is varied and enduring, becoming more complex in the UK. The terrorism threat level remained at 'Substantial' since February 2022, meaning 'an attack is likely'. Since March 2017, eighteen terrorist incidents have occurred in the UK, including one annually for the last four years. The most recent in October 2025 targeted a synagogue in Manchester, on the holiest days for Jewish communities. Since March 2017, eighteen terrorist incidents have occurred in the UK, one annually in the last four years, the most recent in October 2025 targeting a synagogue in Manchester, on the holiest days for Jewish communities.

Additionally, since 2020, nineteen terrorist plots have been successfully disrupted by the police and security agencies, with over 800 live counter terrorism investigations. Three organisations were proscribed in 2025, alongside an increase in arrests for proscription offenses nationally. Threats from hostile States have increased rapidly.

The threat from Extreme-Right Wing Terrorism is growing and evolving, particularly through the radicalisation of increasingly younger individuals from dangerous online content. The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit received over 11,000 referrals in 2024. Arrests for terrorism offences have increased, with higher number of minors and women. This increase is reflected in Prevent referrals too.

Currently, several macro factors could likely impact, increasing demand, complexities, and likely to drive people into extremism and terrorism: growing multipolarity and intensifying strategic competition between states-and with nonstate actors-for political, military, economic, and technological power; geopolitics (e.g. Russia/ Ukraine war, Israel/ Palestine violence), global uncertainty (cost of living issues, economic downturn, rise of far right in Europe), climate change, migration, instability and conflict with more frequent humanitarian disasters, threats emanating from hostile states, increased communication, and the ever-expanding data environment.

Terrorist attacks not only cause loss of life and economic damage, but they also fuel community tensions, damage public confidence, and community cohesion. International and national incidents impact on inter-community relations locally. 'Normalisation' of extremist discourses and an associated reduction in challenges to these narratives is the most damaging impact. Unless the ideologies and the ideologue are challenged and recruitment to these groups stopped, the cycle of violence, criminality, and hate incidents will continue with significant resource implications across partners and significant impact on communities.

All of this combines to paint a picture of a sustained and high tempo threat with significant impact. Effectively tackling terrorism requires a whole society approach. Partnership between communities, statutory, and voluntary services is crucial to counter terrorism and build resilience.

Key facts

The updated threat picture continues to identify Al-Qaida or Daesh and affiliated ideologies as the primary threat to the UK, extreme-right-wing terrorism drives the remainder of the domestic threat. Threat from self-initiated terrorism (individual/s inspired by groups or causes across various extremist perspectives to carry out attacks) with online pathway remains significant.

Most recent attacks were carried out by self-initiated terrorists, making the threat less predictable and harder to detect. Modern technologies, such as 3D printing, encrypted and alternative communication to evade detection and disruption, and livestreaming attacks were used to expand reach, intensify impact, and advance terrorist 'agenda'.

Accessing violent, hateful, and terrorist content online can play a significant role in drawing susceptible users into terrorism. Increased risks are noted from accessing online materials, forums and influencers, social media, online and gaming platforms from across the spectrum of extremisms and ideologies. Online forums and communities not only provide an environment where it is possible to consume ideology, but they also provide materials or practical enablers of terrorist activity, create networks of like-minded peers, create an 'echo-

chamber', and facilitate offline interactions. Individuals may move from being a consumer of online content to disseminating and producing online content and radicalise others. The movement from online activity and spaces to offline activity/ attack planning and harm to public safety may also result.

A growing number of [minors use internet to support, plan, or undertake terrorist activities](#) and recruit others, blending different forms of racism, misogyny and homophobia, enabled by the extensive online availability of harmful and extreme content.

In the current threat landscape, explicit affiliation with any specific terrorist organisation, and fixed ideological alignment are diminishing. Adherence by terrorists to specific ideologies is in many cases less structured and coherent than in the past, reflecting in part the wide range of material available online from which individuals or small groups may draw. People may view both extreme right wing and AQ/ Daesh extremist instructional material, along with other elements of online hatred, conspiracy theories, and disinformation. Counter-terrorism efforts increasingly encounter a range of personal and ideological motivations to violence, where a traditional terrorist narrative may only be part of a much more complex picture.

Local threats continue to arise from self-initiated terrorists, extreme right-wing terrorism, online influences, online risks of radicalisation including gaming, and Al-Qaida/ Daesh and affiliated or inspired terrorism. Trends noted above were reflected locally. Extreme right-wing groups/ influencers are likely to continue to exploit the issue of local asylum provision, migration, and LGBTQI issues to promote grievances, increase support, and gain purchase in the city.

The risk of support for proscribed organisation in the international context has been evident with three arrests in the city. The impact of terrorism arrests, investigations, and releases on the city communities need to be managed to ensure continued resilience.

Risk diversification is evident in the narratives and beliefs that may be used to motivate and support terrorist violence, including conspiracy theories, anti-establishment narratives, targeting of political leaders/ public servants, concerns related to misogyny, INCEL, and fascination with violence. The city has a high level of single issues groups, with high level of protest activities that causes community tensions, reinforces certain grievances, and provides exposure to certain narratives. Prevent referrals and cases adopted onto Channel have a susceptibility to being drawn into terrorism.

Conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence, fostering distrust in democratic institutions and encouraging hostility towards government. People's relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future. The increasing sophistication and scale of disinformation operations presents real challenges for democratic states, increasing the risk of terrorism, inciting violence between groups with pre-existing tensions, and posing longer term risks for public trust.

Current context

Prevent has faced significant scrutiny following widely reported failures. The government introduced policy and operational reforms, alongside comprehensive programme reviews, to

ensure the UK's systems for preventing radicalisation are effective and address the full spectrum of threats.

Prevent Learning Reviews³⁹ (PLR) of two high-profile attacks - the murder of a Member of Parliament in 2021 and Southport attack in 2024 - were undertaken as both the perpetrators had been referred by their schools to Prevent years before the attacks. The PLRs revealed systemic weaknesses in risk assessment and case management, prompting significant reforms to strengthen multi-agency coordination and follow-through.

Inquests into the Forbury Gardens attack and death of Rhianan Rudd⁴⁰ identified further national learning. These findings have direct implications for Prevent practice and underscore the need for robust, consistent processes to safeguard individuals and reduce terrorism risk.

- 1) The assessment of referrals entering the Prevent system and for the adoption of Channel cases.
- 2) Risk assessment of Prevent susceptibilities and associated terrorism risk for people with multiple and complex needs (such as those presenting mental health issues, unclear or no ideology, neurodivergence).
- 3) Support for complex needs, safeguarding opportunities, and policy gaps.

Key findings included: premature closure of referrals from Prevent process due to an over-emphasis on either the absence of ideology or mental health difficulties, to the detriment of other risk factors. Improvements needed in mental health care and support outcomes and missed opportunities for onward referrals.

Nationally, reforms to the Prevent programme included a review of Prevent thresholds and case management, the introduction of a Prevent Assessment Framework in September 2024 to provide a more tailored, consistent, and professional-judgement-driven tool for assessing individuals at risk of radicalisation.

The Clinical Consultancy Service was introduced with the aim of improving health outcomes for individuals already subject to Counter Terrorism Policing interventions. 'Routes To Intervention' (January 2025) extended Channel support concurrently to those subjected to counter terrorism investigation. A national evaluation of Channel to assess its effectiveness and widening support to include practical mentoring are in place.

In January 2025, Lord David Anderson KC was appointed as the Interim Prevent Commissioner to further examine measures taken to address the failings identified in the PLR, and systems review⁴¹. His recommendations included improvements in information sharing, engagement, enhanced response to online risks, and increased transparency. He also advised that 'violence-fascinated individuals', displaying high-risk behaviours without clear ideological alignment, should continue to be supported within Prevent, and proposed

³⁹ Prevent Learning Reviews are undertaken where a terrorist attack or serious violence offence has been committed by someone with prior involvement in the Prevent programme. The Prevent Learning Review was jointly commissioned by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Police in the immediate aftermath of the Southport attack. Available from: [Prevent learning review: Southport attack - GOV.UK](#) and [Prevent learning review: Sir David Amess attack - GOV.UK](#)

⁴⁰ Inquest into the deaths from Forbury Gardens terrorist incident reported in April 2024 available at: [Judge-led inquests - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#). A 'Prevention of Future Death' report published in May 2024 and Rhianan Rudd inquest reported in June 2025, [UK teenager who killed herself was 'highly affected' by terrorism arrest, inquest finds | UK security and counter-terrorism | The Guardian](#)

⁴¹ Anderson D. Lessons for Prevent [Internet]. 2025 Jul [cited 2025 Aug 18]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lessons-for-prevent>

consideration of embedding Prevent within wider safeguarding and violence reduction structures.

Local efforts to sustain a shared understanding of Prevent with our communities and partners to increase transparency, trust and confidence, and improved communication on Prevent needs to continue.

The role of online disinformation and misinformation in promoting violence was highlighted in the racist, anti-migrant, and anti-Muslim violence that exploited the Southport tragedy. Violence against migrant communities in Ballymena (June 2025) and recent demonstrations outside hotels accommodating asylum seekers (July 2025) similarly exploited 'protecting White children and women' tropes by presenting the migrants as a 'threat' within the context of 'othering'. Terrorist and extremist continue to exploit issues related to migration/ asylum-seekers in the UK. Recent terrorist attacks were motivated by anti-migrant narratives (for instance, [Worcestershire](#) and [Dover](#) attacks). Further risks associated with the exploitation of anti-migrant narratives includes hate incidents/ crimes (for example, spike post Southport), public disorder, violent incidents with protests and counter protests, and community tensions.

Recent arson attack targeting Peacehaven mosque (October 2025) has heightened concerns about Islamophobia, with some suggesting that mainstream visibility of nationalist and extreme right campaigns helped normalise or embolden anti-Muslim behaviour in local contexts.

International and national incidents continue to have local impact. The cumulative impact of the various international (Israel/ Palestine, Kashmir, Syria) and national incidents has given rise to a narrative where communities worry about increased Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-migrant views. Following the Hamas attack and the Israel/ Palestine violence, significant increases continue to be reported in both antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents in the UK, significantly impacting communities.

Extremist of various persuasions exploit topical concerns to expand their reach into communities, promote grievances, raise their profile, raise funds, radicalise, and recruit especially within the context of the 'victimisation narrative' they boosted.

The divisive narratives and activities require increased engagement with communities to understand concerns, reassure, prevent escalation, and mitigate risks. 'Reducing permissive environment', requires partnership approach to limit the potential harm and influence of radicalisers and the impact of extremist narratives and content they use to draw people into terrorism.

Prevent delivery in the city since 2009 has been embedded through strong partnership with our communities. The city is no longer a Prevent priority area and delivery now relies on mainstream budgets. The reduction in resources, combined with wider budgetary pressures across partners presents challenges to sustaining best practice.

The cumulative impact of reduced resources and a sustained rise in demand on public services is stretching partnership capacity to respond to an already complex issue, with client groups increasingly presenting with complex, multiple or compound needs. Factors such as cost-of-living crisis, economic downturn, and increasingly complex client needs,

whilst driving demand are also likely to disproportionately impact on minority and disadvantaged communities.

The current landscape of devolution, mayoral elections, and local government reorganisation introduces further uncertainty about resources, the future location of Prevent and Community Safety functions, geographical coverage, both in terms of risk assessment, partnership and community engagement. This uncertainty underscores the need to revisit and redevelop consensus, our shared narrative on Prevent with partners and communities. We will prioritise proactive engagement with stakeholders to reaffirm consensus on Prevent and adapt our strategy to evolving political and organisational contexts, ensuring that delivery remains impactful and inclusive.

We will also invest in community engagement and trust-building to ensure that Prevent remains inclusive, transparent, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Previous delivery has evidenced that success requires:

- Shared consensus on Prevent between partners and communities,
- Strategic commitment to Prevent mission and approach, including anti-racist, transparent practices, and being accountable,
- Regular effective engagement with our communities that has effective reach and depth, engenders partnership and empowerment,
- Continual effort by the council as place makers/ shapers to improve trust and confidence of our staff and communities, and
- Leveraging national learning locally to improve outcomes and impact for individuals and the city.

Our strengths in partnership working, involvement and partnership with communities, threat & risk assessment, and delivery coordination will be further enhanced by implementing national learning, including:

- Improved referral assessment to prevent premature closure.
- Holistic risk assessment considering overlapping and cumulative risks, including those from non-ideological drivers and posed by the individuals.
- Strengthened support pathways for individuals with complex and compound needs to improve outcomes: in mental health, continuity of care, to identified safeguarding and contextual risks. Improved signposting and onward referrals to support following exit from Channel support.
- Strengthened practice, support, and outcome through multi-agency coordination and better integration between Prevent, safeguarding, and criminal justice processes.
- Embedding trauma-informed, safeguarding-led approaches.

- Improved training and guidance to equip professional and communities to recognise and respond to Prevent concerns, including online radicalisation and creating digital resilience.
- Reducing permissive environments through partnership and shared resources.

We will be better equipped to address the evolving threat landscape, reduce harm, and build resilience across our communities.

Our plans

Prevent delivery will continue to reflect the national changes and align local delivery appropriately to improve effectiveness and impact. Prevent delivery will be aligned with regional and local governance changes, ensuring strong engagement with communities and partners.

We will continue to build on our existing best practice in coordinating Prevent delivery locally, our successful engagement and partnership with diverse communities and partners to improve trust and confidence, and further mainstream Prevent work.

Our annual Prevent action plan remains flexible, and risk based, amended annually in line with the counter terrorism local profile and the Brighton & Hove Prevent Risk Assessment.

Work will continue to support individuals from being drawn into or supporting terrorism, improve partners capacity to understand risk of terrorism and respond to reduce those risks in the city.

We will reinvigorate partnership structures to work with our diverse communities (for example, One Voice Partnership) to create shared understanding on Prevent, deliver trainings, embed changes to Channel, reduce permissive environment, and disrupt radicalising influences.

We will assess the impact of critical incidents on community cohesion and coordinate partnership responses to reduce its impact and reassure communities.

Prevent Strategy supports positive duties of freedom of speech and academic freedom and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.

The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - extremist content and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

Prevent delivery has adopted an anti-racist, inclusive, and empowering approach since inception, and we reaffirm this commitment. Prevent is aligned with the council's commitments to be a City of Sanctuary and the 'Anti-racism strategy'.

Empowered individuals and communities are at the heart of effective Prevent delivery. We will continue to ensure democratic oversight and scrutiny of the Prevent work. Through improved partnership work and communications of Prevent work and its impact, we will improve trust and confidence amongst partners and communities.

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation

Context

The proposed devolution deal and local government reorganisation present significant opportunities and challenges for community safety in Brighton & Hove. The transfer of powers to a directly elected mayor and the potential redrawing of administrative boundaries will reshape the governance, funding, and delivery landscape for crime reduction, public safety, and partnership working.

Strategic Objectives

- Safeguard the integrity and effectiveness of local community safety delivery during and after governance changes.
- Ensure continuity of statutory duties, partnership working, and service provision across new boundaries.
- Maintain local accountability, representation, and responsiveness to community needs.

Key Actions

Governance Alignment: Existing partnership structures and delivery arrangements will be mapped against proposed new boundaries and governance frameworks. Transitional working groups will be established to oversee the adaptation of protocols, data-sharing agreements, and operational plans. It will be a priority to ensure that Brighton & Hove's diverse communities are represented in any new regional boards or decision-making bodies.

Service Continuity: Contingency plans will be developed to mitigate risks of service disruption during transition periods. Clear lines of accountability for statutory duties, safeguarding, and enforcement will be maintained throughout, and partnership agreements will be reviewed and updated to reflect new governance arrangements.

Resource Management: A comprehensive resource impact assessment will be conducted to identify risks and opportunities arising from changes in funding, staffing, and service boundaries. The partnership will advocate for sustained investment in prevention, early intervention, and partnership capacity within new regional funding frameworks. Resource allocation and service demand will be monitored through a partnership dashboard, with regular reporting to the Community Safety Partnership Board.

Community Engagement: Changes will be communicated clearly and proactively to residents, businesses, and community groups. Community voices will be actively sought and reflected in new governance structures, and local engagement mechanisms such as Local Action Teams and community forums will be maintained and strengthened.

Policy and Legislative Compliance: All delivery plans and protocols will be reviewed to ensure compliance with new statutory duties arising from the Crime and Policing Bill and

other relevant legislation. Training and guidance will be provided to staff and partners on new legal requirements and operational changes.

Monitoring and Review:

- Establish a dedicated oversight group to monitor the impact of devolution and reorganisation on community safety delivery.
- Report progress, risks, and mitigation actions to the Community Safety Partnership Board and regional governance bodies.
- Review and update this strategy section annually, or as required by changes in the governance landscape.

Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure the successful delivery of the Community Safety Strategy and to support continuous improvement in response to emerging challenges, resource pressures, and governance changes. Our approach to monitoring and evaluation is grounded in the council's learning framework, supporting our ambition to be a learning partnership that is connected, confident, innovative, inclusive, and psychologically safe.

Connected Monitoring: Progress will be reviewed quarterly by the Community Safety Partnership Board and its sub-groups, ensuring all directorates, services, and partners are aligned and working collaboratively towards shared objectives. Staff at all levels will be empowered to contribute insights, with decisions made as close to the front line as possible.

Confident and Agile Evaluation: We will foster a culture of continuous improvement, where learning from experience—including mistakes—is valued. The annual Strategic Assessment update process will provide a structured opportunity to reflect, adapt, and grow, using feedback from partners, communities, and staff to inform future priorities and delivery. Digital tools and dashboards will be used to support confident decision-making and transparency

Innovation and Creativity: Monitoring will be data-driven and experimental, making space to test new approaches and reflect on what works. We will embrace new technologies and analytical methods to improve efficiency and respond to complexity, ensuring our evaluation processes remain forward-looking and impactful.

Diversity and Inclusion: Evaluation will actively seek input from a diverse range of voices, ensuring our monitoring reflects the experiences and needs of all communities and staff. Engagement mechanisms such as Local Action Teams and community forums will be maintained and strengthened, and feedback will be used to drive inclusive growth and leadership

Health and Psychological Safety: We will maintain a trust-based environment where staff and partners feel safe to share honest feedback and challenge assumptions. Monitoring will

include regular partnership health checks, focusing on wellbeing, resilience, and resource capacity, with findings used to support a healthy and sustainable workforce.

Responsive Review: In response to devolution and local government reorganisation, the strategy will be subject to further extensive review, ensuring governance alignment, service continuity, and community engagement remain robust. All delivery areas will regularly review protocols and partnership agreements to ensure compliance with statutory duties, including those arising from the Crime and Policing Bill and other relevant legislation. Training and communications will be updated to reflect new requirements.

DRAFT

Appendix 1. Learning Recommendations from Delivery of the 2023-26 Strategy

A number of recommendations for the new 2026 – 29 Strategy have been identified and are provided below:

Embed the Learning Framework: Ensure the strategy and its delivery reflect the council's learning principles-being connected, confident, innovative, inclusive, and psychologically safe. This includes empowering staff, valuing learning from mistakes, and fostering creativity and diversity. Practical actions include:

- Encouraging cross-service collaboration and shared learning forums
- Supporting staff to test new approaches and reflect on outcomes
- Promoting psychological safety so staff and partners can challenge assumptions and share honest feedback

Strengthen Resource and Capacity Monitoring: Introduce a partnership dashboard and regular health checks to monitor resources, staffing, and demand. Use this intelligence to inform decision-making and advocate for sustained investment. Address identified gaps in after-school provision, mentoring, and contextual safeguarding.

Enhance Data-Driven Practice: Invest in systems and skills for real-time data sharing and analysis across partners. Use evidence to inform priorities, measure impact, and adapt interventions quickly. Prioritise closing knowledge gaps on knife carrying, cuckooing, sexual exploitation, and under-reporting.

Deepen Community Engagement and Survivor Voice: Maintain and strengthen mechanisms for community feedback and participation, ensuring diverse voices-including those with lived experience-shape strategy and delivery. Innovate new pathways for reporting, particularly for hate incidents and in the night-time economy. Ensure survivor and community voice is central to learning and improvement.

Plan for Governance Change: Develop contingency plans and transitional working groups to ensure service continuity and partnership effectiveness through devolution and local government reorganisation. Map partnership structures, establish transitional groups, and ensure community representation in new governance arrangements.

Ensure Legislative Compliance and System Learning: Regularly review protocols and provide training to ensure compliance with new statutory duties, including those arising from the Crime and Policing Bill, Domestic Abuse Act, and other relevant legislation. Systematically embed learning from safeguarding reviews, DARDRs, and lived experience into practice.

Continuous Improvement: Use quarterly monitoring and annual strategy assessments to drive ongoing learning and improvement, adapting to emerging risks and opportunities. The strategy will be subject to further extensive review in response to devolution and local government reorganisation.

Appendix 2. About the Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 specifies that community safety strategies must be delivered by Community Safety Partnerships. The 'responsible authorities' who are required by legislation to participate in our Community Safety Partnership are the local authority, police, probation, health, and fire and rescue services. However, many other partners from the statutory, community/voluntary and business sectors, including the Police and Crime Commissioner are fully involved in the Partnership's work. Local residents also play a key role.

The Community Safety Partnership Board has overall responsibility for the work of the Partnership, while the individual priority areas within this strategy are supported by multi-agency working groups made up of specialists in the relevant area. In some areas there are also dedicated staff to drive forward the work. The Prevent Board is an extension of the Community Safety Partnership to fulfil statutory requirements through effective co-ordination of activities which meet strategic objectives of the Prevent Strategy and Prevent Duty.

Local Action Teams exist across the city and are an important part of the Partnership. LATs involve residents, local businesses and agencies working together and they provide a key route through which community safety issues for local neighbourhoods are taken forward.

Integrated working with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is being achieved through having regard to each other's priorities and providing reciprocal support for deliver.

Community Safety & Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029: Summary Feedback from Online Consultation

The draft Community Safety Strategy was open to online consultation from 1 December to 23 January 2026. We received 147 responses - a significant increase compared with the 82 received during the 2023 consultation.

The consultation received a broad range of responses from residents, community groups, statutory partners, and businesses. Across all priority areas, respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the overall aims and plans, but raised concerns about implementation, enforcement, and resourcing. Free-text comments provided rich insights into community priorities, anxieties, and expectations.

1. Serious violence, drugs & exploitation

Agreement levels were high, with over three-quarters supporting the aims and plans. Key themes included:

Top concerns

- Visible drug use and dealing in central centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James' Street, Brighton Station, North Laine)-centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James' Street, Brighton Station, North Laine).
- Lack of visible policing and low confidence in police response.
- Homelessness, begging and hostel locations linked by respondents to safety concerns.
- Need for joined-up safeguarding across police, social care, health and community services.-up safeguarding across police, social care, health and community services.
- Calls for stronger enforcement, targeted raids, and tackling repeat offenders.
- Concerns about young people's vulnerability, lack of youth provision, and links to poverty.

Suggestions

- More place-based, nighttime safety approaches and night-time safety approaches.
- Better reporting mechanisms, including instant reporting tools.
- Expanded harm reduction, safe use spaces, and investment in support services.

2. Domestic abuse, sexual violence & VAWG

Respondents showed very strong support for the aims.

Key themes

- Need for better police training, greater trust, and more consistent responses.
- Better focus on early prevention, including healthy relationships education in schools.
- Increased public / community awareness of VAWG and services available
- More refuge spaces and specialist women-led services.
- Strong emphasis on holding perpetrators to account.
- Repeated calls to ensure trans, non-binary, and intersex survivors are explicitly included.
- Need for support tailored to people with multiple and compound needs.
- Greater consideration of male victims.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Agreement remained high but feedback highlighted frustration with current ASB responses.

Top concerns

- ASB is perceived as worsening, especially in:
 - Kemptown
 - Brighton Station
 - St James' Street
 - The Level
 - Hove Lawns
- Repeat offenders and hotspots not being proactively tackled.
- Insufficient visible policing and lack of follow-up when incidents are reported.
- Youth-related ASB linked to lack of spaces, activities, and support.
- Perception that council-run events sometimes increase ASB.

Suggested actions

- Stronger enforcement and clearer thresholds for action.
- Improved communication back to residents after reports.
- More youth services and preventative community work.

4. Hate incidents & hate crime

This section generated the most polarised and high-volume feedback, with over a third of comments relating to tensions between Jewish and Palestinian communities.

Key issues

- Conflicting views on:
 - The nature of local protests
 - Whether criticism of Israel constitutes anti-semitism
 - Whether policing is biased *for or against* particular communities
- Requests for:
 - Clearer definitions of hate crime
 - Address the root causes of hate crime - with greater education for young people and countering of divisive narratives in communities and online
 - A more balanced and transparent approach to community tensions
 - Reinstatement of third-party reporting centres
- Widespread concerns about:
 - Under-reporting due to mistrust of authorities
 - Rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hostility toward TNBI and BRM communities
 - Hate speech and intimidation at public protests
- Calls to ensure legitimate protest is not criminalised, alongside concerns that protests can feel intimidating.

5. Prevent

Agreement levels were positive overall, but free-text comments revealed strong polarisation.

Key concerns

- Fear that Prevent could criminalise protest
- Concern from others about extremist activity, radicalisation of young men, and rising islamophobia and antisemitism.
- Calls for greater focus on:
 - Far-right extremism
 - Online radicalisation and misogynistic influencers (“manosphere”)
 - Supporting young, isolated men and boys
- Repeated concerns about Prevent disproportionately impacting BRM and Muslim communities and damaging trust.

Suggestions

- More community engagement, transparency, and balanced narratives.
- Stronger emphasis on education, critical thinking, and youth support.

Cross-cutting themes across the consultation

1. Visible policing & enforcement

Across all priority areas, respondents expressed extremely low confidence in police responsiveness.

Increased place-based work/ tackling geographical city centre hotspots

2. Addressing root causes

Strong calls to invest in:

- Poverty reduction
- Youth provision
- Housing and homelessness support
- Mental health and substance-misuse services

APPENDIX 2

3. Communication and reporting

People want:

- Better ways to report crime/ASB
- Clear feedback loops
- Transparency about thresholds, actions, and outcomes

4. Community tensions around Israel/Palestine

The conflict strongly shaped feedback, with:

- Both Jewish and Palestinian communities expressing fear
- Confusion and disagreement about what constitutes hate crime
- Concerns about protest rights, safety, and bias in policing

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
programme

Brighton & Hove
**Strategic Assessment of
Crime and Community Safety
2025**

Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership



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1. Introduction

Legislative context and purpose of the Strategic Assessment

Since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there has been a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce evidence-based strategies. Since 2007 (under the Police and Justice Act 2006) the requirement has been to refresh three-year strategies on an annual basis, informed by annual strategic assessments.

This Strategic Assessment is prepared for Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership to provide an analytical basis to inform the partnership's Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026-2029.

About the report

This Strategic Assessment has been jointly carried out by subject lead officers and analysts / data specialists within the partnership. Following this introduction, Section 2 looks at local social and economic context and the demographic characteristics of people who live in Brighton & Hove. Section 3 and 4 then consider the factors that drive or enable criminal activity, as well as risk factors and vulnerable groups. This is followed in Section 5 by an overview of the crime picture in the city, with Section 6 looking at the impact that crime and disorder has on the city and the people in it.

The thematic analysis in this report begins in Section 7 and concludes at Section 11. Each topic considers the current context, the scale, trends and nature of problems and draws conclusions on what work should be prioritised for the 2026-29 Community Safety Strategy.

While acknowledging the crucial role of individual agencies in providing support so that people can live and work in a safe environment (for example, housing and homelessness services, substance misuse treatment services, children's services, mental health services and road safety), the focus of this strategic assessment and the strategy is on areas where partnership working is fundamental to making progress.

2.Socio-economic context

The city of Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove is a city on the Sussex south coast with good transport links to the north to London and Gatwick airport, and east and west along the coast.

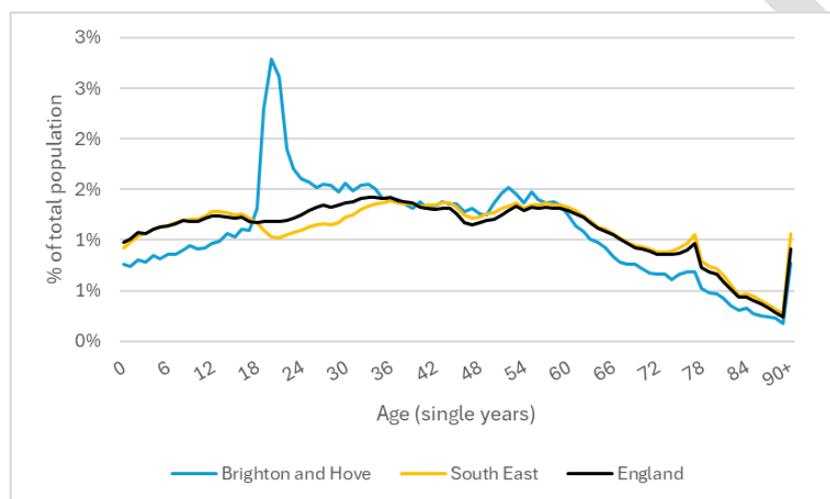
As a popular tourist destination, Brighton & Hove sees large numbers of UK and overseas visitors each year. In 2023, around 10.187 million trips were estimated to have been made to the city by day visitors (up 2% on 2022) with over 5.57 million overnight stays (up 7% on 2022)¹.

The city has two large universities, a number of smaller higher education institutes, many English language schools and it has a reputation for being a welcoming and inclusive place to be.

City demographics

According to the latest (2024) ONS population estimates, there are a total of 283,870 people living in the city, up 1.0% (2,735 people) compared to 2023 (281,135)². In the period from mid-2021 to mid-2024, the population estimate of Brighton and Hove increased by 2.7%.

Figure 1 - Proportion of residents by age (2024 ONS mid-year population estimates).



Sex and age

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer children and older people but more younger adults, residents aged 20 to 29 years make up a significant number of residents (51,900 people, 18%)³. According to the latest ONS estimates (mid-2024), Brighton & Hove is estimated to have more female residents (145,400 people, 51%) than male residents (138,470, people, 49%)². Apart from in the age range 19 to 21 years, there is a relatively even distribution of males and females across all ages up until the age of 75 years old. As seen nationally, beyond the age of 75 years, the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 19,500 residents aged 75 or older in the city, of which 57% (11,180 people) are female and 43% (8,320

¹ [Destination Research / Visit Brighton report - Economic Impact of Tourism 2023 - PDF.](#)

² [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) webpage - statistical release - 'Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2024', released 30 July 2025.](#)

³ [Brighton and Hove City council webpage - JSNA Population in Brighton & Hove Executive Summary.](#)

people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,470 female (67%) to 730 male (33%) residents.

Population density

Some of Brighton & Hove's neighbourhoods are the most densely populated in England. Brighton & Hove local authority area has a population density of 3,345 residents per square kilometre. Ranking upper tier local authorities by population density shows that Brighton & Hove is ranked the 48th most densely populated out of 152 authorities (second quintile)⁴. Tower Hamlets (15,703 residents per square kilometre) is ranked highest, and Northumberland (64 residents per square kilometre) is ranked lowest.

The most densely populated area of the city is the neighbourhood north of Western Road between Norfolk Square and Palmeira Square (over 30,000 residents per square kilometre). The neighbourhood is in the 100 (out of 33,700) most densely populated neighbourhoods in England. In total seven neighbourhoods in the city are in the 1% most densely populated neighbourhoods in England.

Ethnicity

Brighton & Hove is continuing in becoming a more ethnically diverse city. While the overall number of residents has only increased by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, the number of Black and Racially Minoritised residents has increased by 35% or 18,921 people⁵. More than a quarter of residents (26%, 72,272 people) are Black and Racially Minoritised under the definition used by Brighton and Hove City Council, which is, all ethnic groups apart from White UK/British. The proportion of Black and Racially Minoritised residents in Brighton and Hove (26%) is significantly higher than seen in the South East (21%) and similar to what is seen in England (26%).

Arab residents have increased the most since the last Census, increasing by 40% (865 people) to 3,049 residents. Ethnic group Other White remains the largest Black and Racially Minoritised group in the city with 26,812 residents. This ethnic group makes up more than a third of Black and Racially Minoritised residents (37%) and one in ten of all residents (10%). Nearly a fifth of Black and Racially Minoritised residents (18%) and one in twenty of all residents (5%, 13,228 people) are of mixed ethnicity. Residents of mixed ethnicity have increased by more than a quarter (27%, 2,820 people). Nearly a fifth of all Black and Racially Minoritised resident (18%) and one in twenty of all residents (5%, 13,217 people) are Asian or Asian British. Asian or Asian British residents have increased by 17% (1,939 people) since the last Census. Black or Black British residents have increased by nearly a third (30%, 1,370 people). Black or Black British residents make up nearly one in ten (8%) of all Black and Racially Minoritised residents.

Migration

Brighton & Hove continues to be a destination for people born outside of the UK. While the overall population of the city has only grown by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, the city's international migrant population has increased by 27% or 11,500 people.

⁴ [Office for National Statistics webpage - statistical release - 'Population Density', updated February 2023.](#)

⁵ [Brighton and Hove City Council webpage - Brighton & Hove 2021 Census briefing.](#) Some figures stated in this report may not sum due to rounding.

One in five residents living in Brighton & Hove (20%, 54,343 people) were born outside of the UK. This is significantly higher than both the South East (16%) and England (17%) and the highest seen outside of London, Coventry, Birmingham, Bedford, and Bexley. Two out of five residents (43%, 23,104 people) born outside of the UK were born in the EU, more than seen in both the South East (38%) and England (36%). Among residents born in the EU, nearly two thirds (65%, 15,099 people) were born in countries who have been a member of the EU since before 2004. This is also significantly higher than seen in the South East (47%) and England (44%) and is the highest proportion in England outside of London.

Half of Brighton and Hove residents born outside of the UK were born outside of Europe (51%, 27,670 people), with nearly a half of these residents (45%, 12,517 people) born in the Middle East and Asia, over a quarter (28%, 7,863 people) born in Africa and nearly a fifth (19%, 5,326 people) in the Americas and the Caribbean. Most residents in the city born outside of the UK were born in Italy (2,997 people), followed by Poland (2,484 people), Spain (2,382 people), India (1,956 people), and the USA (1,655 people). Compared to 2011 the number of Italian residents has increased by 110% and the number of Spanish residents by 80%. By contrast, the number of Polish residents has only increased by 10%.

The city also has proportionately higher numbers of short-term international migrants. At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 1,519 non-UK short term residents in the city - residents who plan to stay at least three months but less than 12 months. As a proportion of all non-UK born residents and short-term residents (55,862 people), short-term residents make up 2.7% of the total, double the figure for the South East (1.3%) and England (1.3%).

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

There is no definitive data on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Brighton & Hove. The 2021 Census recorded 197 Gypsy or Irish Traveller people living in the city. In the 2024 Health Counts survey⁶, 0.2% of adult respondents in the city were Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller.

Data from the council's Traveller Liaison Team showed that in October 2025 there were 11 families permanently resident on the council's 12 pitch traveller site at St Michael's Way in Brighton. All households who moved on to the newly opened permanent residential site in 2016 remained on the site, until this year when a small number of families vacated their pitches, which have since been re-allocated. There is also a 21-pitch transit site, adjacent to the permanent residential site, for Travellers passing through the city, and there are 5 families occupying pitches – the licences for the transit pitches are for a maximum stay of 12 weeks.

Brighton and Hove also has families who travel into the city and set up unauthorised encampments on land, where they may stay for a very short time and are often directed to a dedicated transit site. In

⁶ Gilchrist, K., Sherriff, N.S., Huber, J., Galvin, K., Mirandola, M., Murtagh, S., Llewellyn, C., Vass, C., Knight, L., Guzek, J., Aicken, C., Sawyer, A., Davidson, S., & Gray, C (2024). [Health Counts 2024: Summary of Results](#). Brighton, Brighton and Hove City Council.

Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. There were 16,729 respondents, results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate. The 2024 Health Counts survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Brighton, in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Medical School, NHS Sussex, Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, Brighton & Hove Federation and Brighton & Hove City Council Public Health Intelligence team. It was funded by the Public Health Department at Brighton & Hove City Council.

2025, up to October, there were a total of 71 Traveller families on 6 unauthorised encampments, and a further 11 households who had come directly to a transit site.

Students

For the academic year 2023/24, there were a total of 35,885 students enrolled at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton, a 5.3% decrease (2,020 students) from 2022/23. In England, there has been a 0.6% decrease in the number of students over the same period⁷. At the University of Sussex and University of Brighton in 2023/24, 58% of students were female (20,725 people) and 42% male (14,720 people).

LGBTQ+ residents

For the first time ever, the 2021 Census asked questions about sexual orientation and gender identity. The sexual orientation and gender identity questions were voluntary and only asked of residents aged 16 or older. More than nine out of ten residents chose to answer the sexuality questions (91%), and the gender identity questions (93%). Brighton & Hove has the highest proportion of residents identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB+) in England. More than one in ten residents aged 16 or over (10.6%, 25,375 people) identify with an LGB+ sexual orientation. This is three times the percentage found in both the South East (3.1%) and England (3.1%) and the highest percentage of any upper tier local authority in England.

Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents taken around once every ten years. Over one in four respondents of the 2024 survey (28%) were lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, queer or prefer another term to describe their sexual orientation but not heterosexual (LGBQ+)⁶. The Health Counts question differs slightly to the 2021 Census, where 11% of adults in the city identified as LGB+. This was a voluntary question in the 2021 Census.

The 2021 Census recorded at least 2,341 residents (1.0%) in Brighton & Hove who identified with a gender different from their sex registered at birth. This is double the proportion seen in the South East (0.5%) and England (0.5%)⁸. The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying with a gender different from their sex registered at birth (1.0%) is the highest seen outside of London, Luton, Manchester, and Leicester. More than a third of residents who identify with a gender different from their sex identified at birth (36%, 835 people) in the city identify specifically as non-binary. This is 0.4% of the city's population and five times higher than seen in the South East (0.1%) and England (0.1%). The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying as non-binary is the highest seen in any upper tier local authority in England.

In the 2024 Health Counts survey, 5% of adults were trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI). This is considerably higher than the 2021 Census, however we know this was likely to be an underestimate and that the Census figures for gender identity are no longer accredited official statistics⁶.

⁷ [Higher Education Statistics Agency webpage - statistical release - 'Who's studying in HE?', released April 2025.](#)

⁸ [Office for National Statistics webpage – statistical report – Sexual orientation and gender identity quality information for Census 2021, released April 2025.](#) Gender identity estimates from Census 2021 are official statistics in development, reflecting their innovative nature and the evolving understanding of measuring gender identity, along with the uncertainty associated with these estimates.

Disabilities and wellbeing

Brighton & Hove residents are significantly more likely to be disabled than people living across the rest of the South East and England. At the time of the 2021 Census, nearly one in five residents (19%, 51,797 people) were disabled as defined by the Equalities Act. This is significantly higher than seen in both the South East (16%) and England (17%).

For two out of five disabled residents (20,351 people, 39%) their day-to-day activities are limited a lot, with the remaining 61% (31,446 people) having their activities limited a little. A further 20,804 residents have a long-term physical or mental health condition that does not affect their day-to-day activity.

Based on national prevalence rates of health needs among adults in the city aged 18 to 64⁹ and among those aged over 65¹⁰, in 2025:

- Nearly one in ten residents aged 65 or older (9.0%, 3,653 people) were predicted to have a moderate or severe visual impairment, while around one in fifteen residents aged 75 or older (6.5%, 1,267 people) have a 'registrable' eye condition.
- One in 40 residents aged 18 to 64 (2.5%, estimated 4,971 people) and around in 50 residents aged 65 and older (2.1%, estimated 857 people) were predicted to have some form of learning disability.
- One in 20 residents aged 18 to 64 (5%, an estimated 9,780 people) and nearly one in five residents aged 65 and over (19%, an estimated 7,548 people) had impaired mobility.
- Around one in 200 residents aged 18 to 64 (0.5%, estimated 1,048 people) and one in 12 people aged 65 and over (7.9%, estimated 3,199 people) were predicted to have severe hearing loss.

In the 2024 Health Counts survey, over a third of adults responded that their day-to-day activities are limited by a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness (37%), with 16% reporting their activities are limited a lot and 23% a little. This is much higher than the figures from the 2021 Census (19%)⁶.

Brighton & Hove also has significant mental health needs. The proportion of adults with common mental disorders, such as anxiety or depression are estimated to be 1 in 5 in the city (38,600 people aged 18 - 64 years old). This is higher than the England estimate of 1 in 6 and considered an underestimate¹¹. In the 2024 Health Counts Survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents, 24% of respondents reported low levels of happiness, and 38% reported high levels of anxiety⁶.

Carers

At the time of the 2021 Census, one in thirteen residents (7.8% of residents aged over 5, 20,804 people) provided at least one hour of unpaid care to someone with a disability or problems relating to age, lower than the South East (8.4%) and England (8.8%). The proportion providing unpaid care fell one percentage point from 8.8% recorded in the 2011 Census.

⁹ [Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System \(PANSI\).](#)

¹⁰ [Projecting Older People Population Information System \(POPPI\).](#)

¹¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council report. Mental Health & Wellbeing Assessment 2022 - PDF.](#)

Nearly one in 25 residents (3.6%, 9,470 people) provide 20 or more hours of unpaid care, lower than seen in the South East (3.9%) and England (4.4%), but one percentage point higher than recorded in the 2011 Census (2.6%).

Armed Forces

One in forty residents aged 16 years old or older (5,618 people, 2.4%) have previously served in the UK armed forces. This is significantly lower than in the South East (4.2%) and England (3.8%). Among the 5,618 veterans, 3,948 were in the regular UK armed forces, 1,423 in the reserves and 246 in both the regular and reserve armed forces.

Housing and homelessness

At the time of the 2021 Census, the average household size in the city was 2.2 people, compared with 2.4 in the South East and in England.

More than a third of households (35%, 42,101 homes) in Brighton & Hove are single person households, higher than seen in the South East (28%) and England (30%). A third of these single person households (13,875 homes), or one in ten of all households in the city (11%), are households with a single person aged 66 or older living there. This proportion is lower than in the South East (13%) and England (12%).

Nearly a quarter of households (24%, 28,687 homes) contains a dependent child aged under 16, lower than seen in the South East (29%) and England (28%). However, we have a similar proportion on lone parent households (6%, 7,229 homes) as the South East (6%) and England (7%). Compared to the 2011 Census, the number of lone parent families has fallen by 16% (1,408 homes).

Brighton & Hove has a high proportion of households who rent privately. Nearly a third of households (33%, 39,684 households) in the city rent privately. This is significantly higher than both the South East (19%) and England (20%) and is the highest proportion in England outside of London and the Isles of Scilly. Between 2011 and 2021 the number of households in the city renting privately increased by 10%, equating to 3,725 additional households. Meanwhile homeownership in Brighton & Hove is falling; just over a half of households in the city (51%) own their own home, significantly lower than seen in the South East (66%) and England (61%). Between 2011 and 2021 the number of households owning their own home fell by 4% (2,373 households). However, the number of households who own their home with a mortgage or loan fell by 12% (4,420 households), while the number of households owning their home outright increased by 7% (2,047 households). This changing pattern of home ownership is also reflected nationally.

According to data collected by the city's Street Outreach Service¹², in 2024/25 there were 716 people who had been found sleeping rough across Brighton & Hove, lower than the 785 seen in the previous year. This team highlights the substantial positive work it has done with the network of related support agencies across the city to reduce the number of individuals rough sleeping in the city throughout the year.

A rough sleeping count is conducted nationally on a single night in the autumn each year. Since Covid-related support for rough sleepers ended in 2022, the count of rough sleepers has increased steadily with 37 rough sleepers in 2021, 41 in 2022, 52 in 2023 and 76 in 2024,

¹² [Change Grow Live webpage - Street Outreach Service, Brighton and Hove.](#)

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although this remains below the 88 rough sleepers recorded pre-Covid in November 2019¹³. The count in the city in 2024 included those who had been placed in SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol), put in place due to adverse weather conditions on the night of the 2024 count to prevent loss of life. Brighton & Hove had the 6th highest per-capita rate of people counted as rough sleeping across all local authorities in England in 2024, however it is not clear from Government figures which other local authorities had accounted for SWEP in their figures. Over-the-month bedded down figures tend to be used by services as these are more reflective of an accurate picture of those experiencing rough sleeping within the city.

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 – 2030¹⁴ states that structural inequalities and system wide challenges such as unemployment, disability, ill health, mental health needs, substance use, domestic abuse, and family breakdown create pathways into homelessness for many in the city. The current cost of living crisis has intensified these pressures, while a chronic shortage of genuinely affordable housing means that even those in work can struggle. A private renter on an average income in Brighton & Hove can expect to spend 45% of their household income on rent; the 'affordability threshold' is 30%¹⁵. The Strategy has three main priority areas: increase effectiveness in preventing homelessness and rough sleeping; improve temporary accommodation pathways and experiences; and provide joined-up support with partners to people who most need help.

¹³ Homelessness statistics from the [DLUHC Ending Rough Sleeping Framework](#).

¹⁴ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage. Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy 2025 to 2030](#).

Please note: The Brighton and Hove Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-30 is currently in draft form and out to consultation.

¹⁵ [Office for National Statistics webpage - statistical report - Private rental affordability, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, released August 2025](#).

Demographic variation across the city

The socio-demographic characteristics of Brighton & Hove vary across the city. For example, based on the number of residents in the area:

- The area to the **far west of the city** has the highest rates of children under 16 years old and working age adults with a health problem or disability that affects their activity.
- The **coastal area of Hove** has the highest rates of commuters travelling over 10km to work, as well as people 65 or older with a health problem or disability that affects their activity.
- The **city centre** has the highest rates of residents of working age (16-64), single person households, single parent households and Black and Racially Minoritised (non-White) residents.
- Areas to the **north of the city** have the second highest rate of commuters travelling over 10km to work.
- Areas **adjacent to the Lewes Road and East Brighton** have the highest rate of full-time students and people living in social housing.
- Areas to the **far east of the city (the 'Deans')** have the highest rate of residents over the age of 65.



The above data is derived from the 2021 Census and ONS 2022 mid-year population estimates.

3. Drivers and enablers of crime and disorder

Drivers of crime

The Home Office report, 'Modern Crime Prevention Strategy'¹⁶ talks about six 'key drivers of crime', with some crime problems involving a combination of drivers. It argues that measures to prevent crime need to address these issues:

Opportunity – prevention by removing opportunities where crime can take place.

Character – early interventions to circumvent exposure to risk factors.

The criminal justice system – this should act as an effective deterrent.

Profit – making it harder for criminals to benefit financially from crime.

Drugs – restrict supply through tackling organised crime, prevent drugs misuse and help people to resist getting involved in drugs, and support people through treatment and recovery.

Alcohol – having a night-time economy where people consume alcohol safely.

These last two drivers have specific relevance for Brighton & Hove:

In 2019/20, the last year for which health data was published, it was estimated that 14.4 residents per 1,000 in Brighton and Hove used an opiate and/or crack cocaine, significantly higher than the South East (6.6 per 1,000) and England (9.5 per 1,000)¹⁷. The 2024 Health Counts survey⁶ found that one in five adults in the city (20%) have taken drugs not prescribed for them and not available at a chemist or pharmacy in the last 12 months. Various measures of drug-related deaths had, until recently, shown an increasing trend (see **Section 7**), suggesting that drug-taking may have intensified in the city in recent years. This is an important concern for the city not only from the point of view of the health of users, but also as it leads to people being drawn into crime and exploitation.

The last Health Survey for England for which local authority level data was available (2015-2018) showed Brighton & Hove residents were also found to consume considerably more alcohol than other areas. During this period, 41% of residents aged 18 or older were estimated to drink over 14 units of alcohol a week, higher than the South East (23%), England (23%) and all its statistical neighbours¹⁸. The last published Health Survey (2022) showed 25% of people in the South East and 24% of people across England drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week.

The vibrant night-time economy and hospitality sector in Brighton & Hove attracts many visitors to the city, as well as its own residents. While good for the local economy, this can also have knock-on effects on violent crime as well as having other negative outcomes. Mitigation of these negative aspects of the night-time economy is sought through the Brighton & Hove [Licensing Policy](#) and the [Public Health Framework for Assessing Alcohol Licensing](#), which form the basis of decisions around licensing applications.

¹⁶ [Home Office Report, 2016 - Modern Crime Prevention Strategy - PDF.](#)

¹⁷ [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities webpage, opiate and crack cocaine use prevalence estimates.](#)

¹⁸ [Public Health England webpage, Fingertips profile - Brighton and Hove alcohol consumption.](#)

Internet enabled crime and safety issues

As the use of banking apps, online purchasing and digital payments continues to increase¹⁹, new and more sophisticated opportunities for online fraud (such as the misuse of cards, fraudulent online purchasing) and cybercrimes (account hacking, phishing and malware) have developed similarly. In the last few years, cryptocurrency scams have also emerged as a vehicle for cybercrime, which has been especially difficult for authorities to combat due to the perceived low level of police knowledge on the technology's legality and technical details²⁰.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2024/25 estimated that 692,000 people aged 16 or over in the year ending March 2024/25 had experienced computer-misuse crimes, including computer-virus crimes and hacking crimes. The CSEW also noted that only around one in 25 people ever reported being a victim of this crime group to Action Fraud or to the police. Across the Sussex Police force area there were 9,140 crimes recorded by Action Fraud to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in 2023/24, 21% more than in 2018/19^{21,22,23}.

Increased online communication at both direct and public level also allows potential messages of hate or perceived hate to spread across a broader range of audiences with greater speed and saturating a greater portion of users' time spent on social media platforms. The impacts on communities and individuals are discussed further in **Section 10**.

Social media has also played a significant part in enabling extremist organisations to target and engage vulnerable individuals. This is one of the challenges for those working on the Prevent agenda, discussed in **Section 11**.

Inequality, poverty and multiple disadvantage

People affected by crime can often be living with multiple risks or disadvantage, and in combination these can make living safer lives more difficult to achieve.

Victimisation by demographic group (England & Wales)

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) asked its respondents whether they had been a victim of personal crime in the year ending March 2025²⁴. The proportion of people aged over 16 responding that they had been a victim is broken down below by reported personal characteristics, in some cases showing significant inequalities in victimisation:

- Those from a Mixed ethnic background 15.3% (Black or Black British 12.1%, White 10.9%, Other ethnic group 9.1%, Asian or Asian British 8.8%).

¹⁹ [Payment Systems Regulator Strategy report, January 2025 - PDF.](#)

²⁰ [Home Office web report - Understanding the cyber crime and fraud victim journey, January 2025.](#)

²¹ [Office for National Statistics webpage, cybercrime levels 2019 to 2024 FOI request, August 2024.](#)

²² [Action Fraud UK webpage, performance measurement and cybercrime trends.](#)

²³ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Nature of fraud and computer misuse in England and Wales appendix tables.](#)

²⁴ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime in England and Wales data, year ending March 2025.](#)

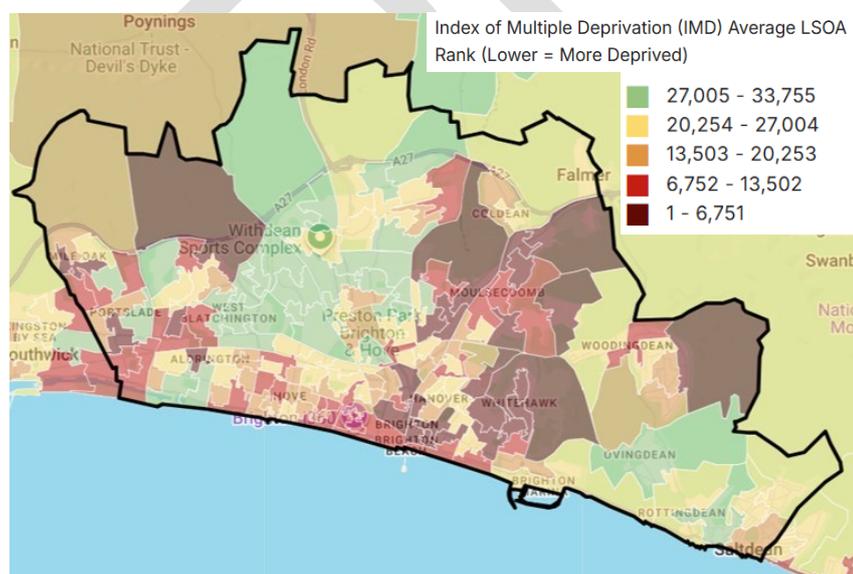
Personal crime includes violence, robbery, theft from the person, other theft of personal property, and fraud and computer misuse.

- Disabled people 13.6% (Not disabled 10.2%).
- People subscribing to an Other religion 22.0% (Jewish 12.4%, No religion 11.4%, Christian 10.5%, Buddhist 10.1%, Muslim 9.5%, Hindu 7.0%, Sikh 6.6%).
- People reporting their sexual orientation as Bisexual (16.7%), Gay/Lesbian 16.1%; Other sexual orientation 11.3% (Heterosexual/Straight 10.8%).
- Respondents whose gender identity is different from sex registered at birth 11.9% (Gender identity same as sex registered at birth 11.3%).
- People who have experience of Local Authority care as a child 20.3% (those who have not experienced such care as a child 10.7%).
- People who have experienced homelessness in the last 12 months 22.8% (those who have not experienced homelessness in the last 12 months 10.7%).
- Single-parent households with children under-16 13.0% (households with no children 10.5%).
- Women 11.1% (Men 10.5%).

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The 2025 Index of Multiple Deprivation²⁵ (IMD) is an overall ranking of deprivation combining measures of income, education, employment, health, crime, housing and living environment. Brighton and Hove is ranked the 96th most deprived upper tier local authority in England (out of 153). Brighton and Hove has an IMD rank of 17,375. This means that Brighton and Hove has lower levels of overall deprivation compared to England (16,746) but higher levels of overall deprivation compared to the South East (20,605). Looking at the crime domain, the IMD shows that Brighton & Hove has higher levels of crime deprivation (16,652) than either England (16,699) or the South East (18,666). The map in **Figure 2** shows the level of deprivation varies widely across the city - with some of the most deprived areas in the east and central parts of the city. Smaller areas of deprivation are also found in the west of the city. Click on the map below to view in more detail (**Section 12**).

Figure 2 - Brighton and Hove Map by Indices of Multiple Deprivation rank, IMD 2025.



²⁵ [MHCLG webpage - English indices of deprivation 2025 statistical release.](#)

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is an important indicator as it highlights unused available labour, which impacts on the economic growth of the city. Between April 2024 to March 2025, there were estimated to be 8,000 unemployed people in the city. This is 4.7% of those who are economically active, larger than the 3.9% estimated in Great Britain and 3.3% in the South East²⁶.

In the 2024 Health Counts survey⁶, the majority of adult respondents were in work/employment (60%). Followed by retired (17%), in education or training (14%), long term sick or disabled (7%), unemployed or not in work (6%), or looking after home or family (6%), with 3% other.

Cost of living

Data from the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT)²⁷ showed that as of September 2025, there were 22,360 low-income households in the city, with 8,527 children living in them. Of these low-income households, 5,939 households - with 3,720 children living in them - were below the poverty line, defined by LIFT as living in a household in which their total household equivalised income is below 60% of the median UK household income. This was an increase of 201 households in the city compared with November 2024. In addition, 2,215 households in the city were estimated to have a cash shortfall and 553 households were in food poverty. The LIFT cannot provide any insight into the financial circumstances for households living just above the benefit threshold, in work and still unable to afford basic needs, commonly known as Just About Managing households.

Health Counts 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including a question around the cost of living. Health Counts asked respondents if they were taking any of a select group of measures because of the increases in the cost of living²⁸. This found that 86% of respondents were doing at least one of these things. The most commonly reported measures being taken were reducing leisure activities (45%), shopping around more (43%), spending less on food (40%), and using less fuel at home (38%). Respondents in younger age groups, females, Black and Racially Minoritised respondents, trans, non-binary and intersex (TNBI), LGBQ+, and disabled respondents, as well as respondents who are unpaid carers, have experience of the care system as a child / young person, live in the most deprived parts of the city, or who live in temporary or emergency accommodation, were all significantly more likely than all respondents to be taking any of these measures because of the increase in the cost of living.

²⁶ [NOMIS webpage - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics.](#)

'Unemployed' refers to people who were actively seeking work or who had found work and were waiting for it to commence. 'Economically active' refers to those who are either employed or who are unemployed according to the above definition.

²⁷ [LIFT](#) data is produced using council data on Housing Benefit claimants and DWP data relating to Universal Credit-Council Tax Reduction claimants in the city. These are combined with data on council tax arrears, Housing Benefit overpayments and rent arrears (where BHCC is landlord). This information for each household is then calculated against average spend by household type. The result is a snapshot of financial vulnerability for each of these households in the city. Please note this data is indicative but does not include all low income, benefit recipient households, such as those who are in receipt of Universal Credit but are not claiming Council Tax Reduction.

²⁸ This included reducing leisure activities, shopping around more, spending less on food, using less fuel at home, reducing non-essential journeys, using savings, making energy efficient improvements, using credit cards, loans or overdrafts, using support from charities, or any other things.

4. Risks factors and vulnerable groups

Young people

Risk and protective factors associated with offending by young people

There are a number of potential risk and protective factors for young people offending, which exist at an individual, family, school and peer group, and community level.^{29,30,31} These factors often occur in clusters and interact with each other.

Level	Risk factors	Protective factors
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early malnutrition• Behavioural risk factors• Alcohol or drug misuse• Traumatic brain injury• Language difficulties• Isolation• Exposure to extreme narratives or violent content (especially online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health problem solving• Being ready for school• Healthy social relationships• Learning language• Self-esteem and strong personal and social identity
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse• Emotional or physical neglect• Household alcohol or drug misuse• Household mental illness• Family violence• Household offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stable home environment• Nurturing relationships• Shared activities with parents• Good, consistent parenting skills
School and peer group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor educational attainment• Truancy• Gang membership• Low expectations from teachers• School bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to school• Positive teacher relationships• Positive social interactions
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deprivation• Poor housing• Unsafe areas• Poor social mobility• High crime rate• High unemployment• Racism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for sport and hobbies• Community cohesion• Safe environment• Inclusion• Opportunity for volunteering• Resilient communities that challenge extreme narratives.

²⁹ [Public Health England web report - Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending by children \(CAPRICORN\) summary](#). Please note this guidance was subsequently withdrawn by His Majesty's Government in June 2024.

³⁰ [Commission for Countering Extremism webpage - Independent Report by Dr D Holbrook, 2025. 'Sacred violence: the enduring role of ideology in terrorism and radicalisation'](#).

³¹ [Journal of Youth and Adolescence webpage – research report – Gubbels, Assink and van der Put, 2023 - Protective Factors for Antisocial Behaviour in Youth: What is the Meta-Analytic Evidence?](#)

A review which focused on the impact of health on criminal justice involvement³² highlighted how child and adolescent health and developmental difficulties are important determinants of involvement in the criminal justice system. These included neurodevelopmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, mental health difficulties, and childhood experiences of trauma and adversity, all of which were shown to be higher in incarcerated young people than in the general population. It also noted that risk is enhanced by societal marginalisation, structural disadvantage and inequality. The review concluded that early identification and assessment is required, with responsive interventions taking account of the particular needs and circumstances of individuals.

Children at risk

This section provides data for Brighton & Hove on children who may be experiencing disadvantage in their home or school setting.

Children in Need (CIN)

Evidence suggests children and young people who are looked after are more likely to become unemployed, involved in crime and be identified as having a substance misuse problem³³.

There were 2,922 Children in Need assessments carried out in the city in the year ending 2024/25³⁴, 53 higher than in the previous year. This was slightly lower than in 2022/23, when 3,144 were completed, but remains higher than in any other year since 2016/17. This equated to 627 assessments per 10,000 children aged under 18, slightly lower than across the South East (633 per 10,000) but higher than across England (533 per 10,000) in 2024/25.

Where factors were identified at the end of these assessments, the most prevalent were concerns about the mental health of a parent (1,124 episodes), concerns about the domestic abuse of a parent (734) and concerns about emotional abuse (514 episodes). More than one form of need can be noted in each assessment.

At the end of March 2025 there were 2,005 Children in Need in the city, 3.2% more than the 1,991 recorded at the same time in 2024 but lower than the 2,180 recorded at the same time in 2023. This remains slightly lower than the longer-term average for the city – except for 2020/21 and 2021/22, where figures were likely affected by Covid-19. The number of Children in Need recorded at the end of March each year has been consistently between 2,000 and 2,500 since 2015.

The 2,005 Children in Need in the city in March 2025 equated to 408 per 10,000 children aged under 18, considerably higher than across the South East (297 per 10,000) and England (313 per 10,000).

Children receiving support

At the end of March 2024 there were 759 individuals open to Family Hubs, and 695 supported at the end of March 2025.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of cases open to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) over the last eight years. At the end of March 2025 there were

³² The [Lancet research article. Hughes et al, 2020. Health determinants of adolescent criminalisation.](#)

³³ [NICE web report - Looked After Children and Young People, October 2021.](#)

³⁴ [Gov.uk webpage: Explore Education Statistics - Children in Need, reporting year 2025.](#)

3,211 open cases, 60% more than at the same time in March 2022 and more than treble the 906 open in March 2018.

At the end of March 2025, 260 children in the city were subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP). This equates to 52 per 10,000 children aged under 18, higher than both the South East (36 per 10,000 children) and England (38 per 10,000)³⁵.

For children in the city on a CPP at the end of March 2025, 61% had initially been assessed as having been subjected to emotional abuse, higher than the South East (34% of children) and England (37% of children). A further 30% of children were initially assessed as abused through neglect in the city, less than in the South East (56%) and England (50%), while 6% were subject to physical abuse and 3% to sexual abuse.

School exclusions

In academic year 2023/24 - the latest for which data is available - there were 376 suspensions or permanent exclusions from state primary schools in the city (99 more than in the previous year), 1,602 from state funded secondary schools (358 more than in 2022/23) and 45 from special schools (39 fewer than in 2022/23). Among these exclusions, fewer than 5 were made permanent.³⁶ The number and rate of suspensions in both state-funded primary school and state-funded secondary schools in academic year 2023/24 were the highest since at least 2012/13.

Examining the reasons for these suspensions (for which up to 3 can be recorded per suspension), persistent disruptive behaviour was the most recorded across state-funded primary and secondary schools, as well as in special schools. In state-funded primary schools this was noted in 151 suspensions (40% of total suspensions), followed in prevalence by physical assault against adults (39% of suspensions) and physical assault against pupils (85, 23% of suspensions). In state-funded secondary schools, verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult was the next most recorded reason for suspension (425, noted in 27% of suspensions) followed by physical assault against a pupil (281, 18% of suspensions); using offensive weapons, drugs/alcohol use, inappropriate social media use, theft and discriminatory bullying also became more prevalent.

Bullying

The 2023 version of the Safe and Well at School Survey highlighted that 20% of pupils at Key Stage 2, 20% at Key Stage 3 and 15% at Key Stage 4 reported being bullied during the current term. For all Key Stages, as shown in **Figure 3**, the rate at which pupils reported being bullied had remained relatively consistent between 2014 and 2021 but increased significantly in the 2023 version. The proportion of Key Stage 2 children reporting being bullied had increased by 5 percentage points in 2023 compared with the previous survey, followed by a 4-percentage point increase for Key Stage 3 pupils and a 6-percentage point increase among Key Stage 4 pupils.

³⁵ [Gov.uk Explore Education Statistics webpage - Child Protection Plans as at 31 March 2025 dataset, Reporting year 2025.](#)

³⁶ [Gov.uk Explore Education Statistics webpage - Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England, academic year 2023/24.](#)

Figure 3 – percentage of pupils reporting having been bullied in the last term, as reported in the Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS), 2007 to 2023.

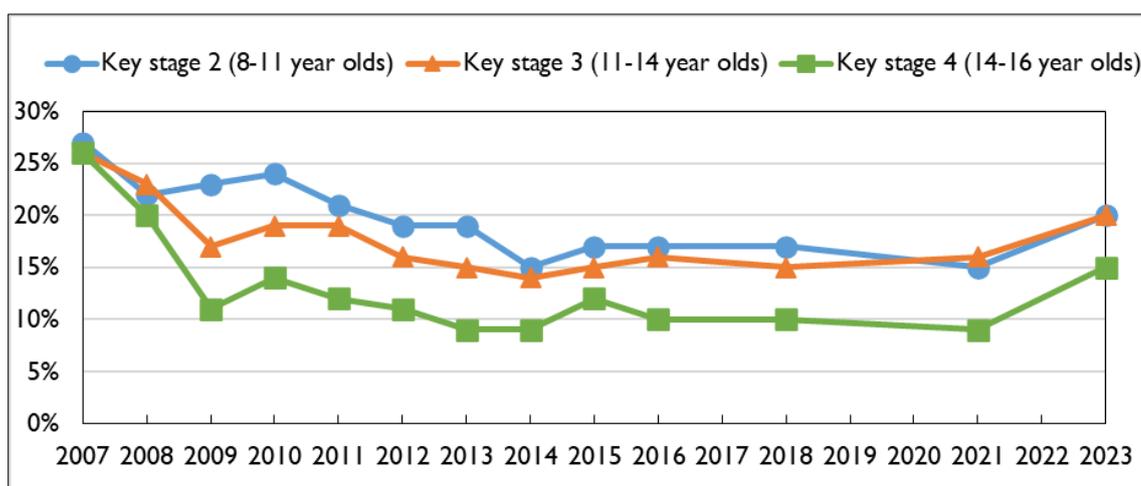
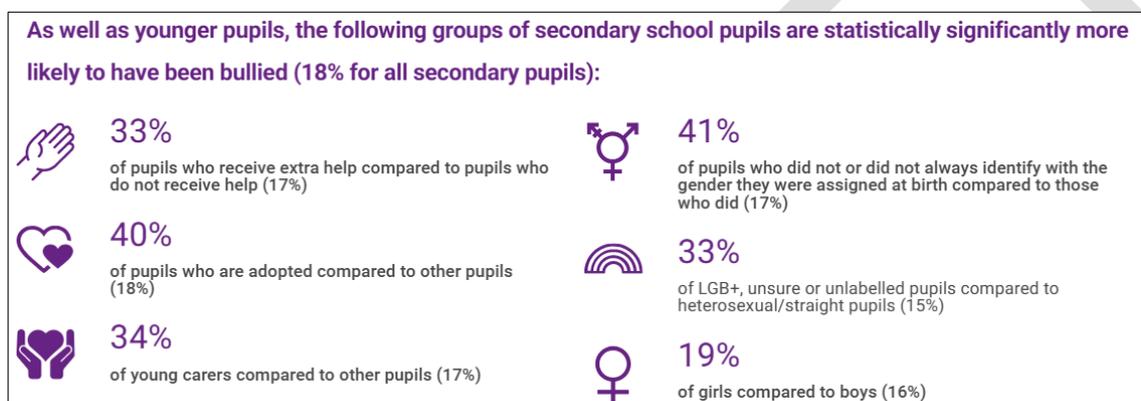


Figure 4 – presentation board of assorted Safe and Well at School survey statistics concerning secondary school pupils.



Participation in education, training and employment

Not being in education, training and employment, as noted earlier in this section, is a risk factor for offending and perpetrating anti-social behaviour. In academic year 2024/25, 6.7% of 16 to 17-year-olds in the city (382 young people) were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training) or where their activity was not known, compared with 7.0% in the South East and 5.6% in England.³⁷

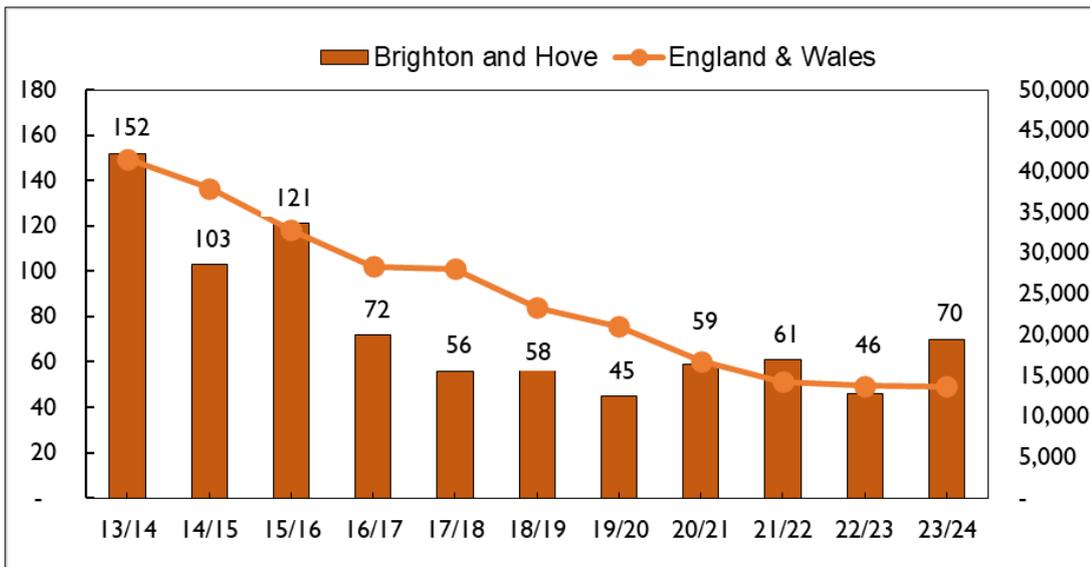
Offending and reoffending in children and young people

According to Ministry of Justice³⁸ figures, 70 children in the city were cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24, significantly more than the 46 recorded the previous year. Numbers had previously fluctuated between 45 and 60 per year, following a decrease from 152 in 2013/14 to 56 in 2016/17, as seen in **Figure 5**.

³⁷ [Department for Education webpage, NEET data by local authority.](#)

³⁸ [Youth justice statistics: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#) – local level pivot tables. Offenders' ages were recorded at the time of the caution or sentence, excluding people who commit an offence before they turn 18, but sentenced after they turn 18.

Figure 5 - number of children cautioned or sentenced by the Youth Justice Service in Brighton & Hove and in England and Wales, by year.

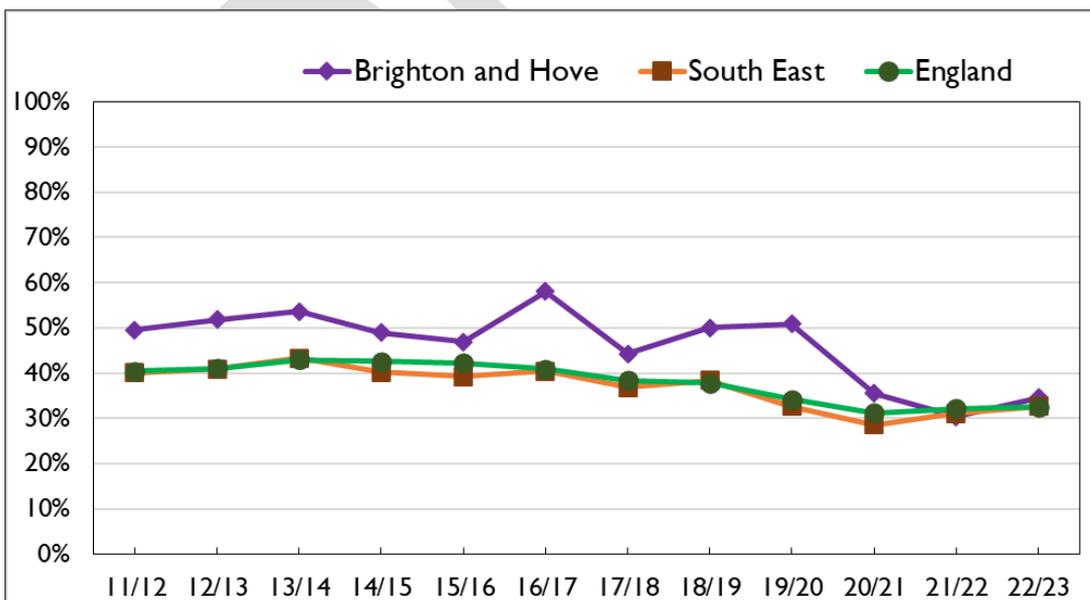


Looking at the demographic characteristics of the 70 young people cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24³⁹:

- 52 (74%) were Boys while 18 (26%) were Girls.
- 55 (79%) were White, and 15 (21%) were of another ethnicity or unknown ethnicity.
- 47 (67%) were young people aged 15 to 17, 23 (33%) were aged between 10 and 14.

In 2022/23, the latest financial year for which data is available, 34.5% of all children who had offended that year had since reoffended. This rate is consistent with the rates of reoffending in the South East and across England and Wales, having previously been consistently higher than the regional and national average, as seen in **Figure 6**.

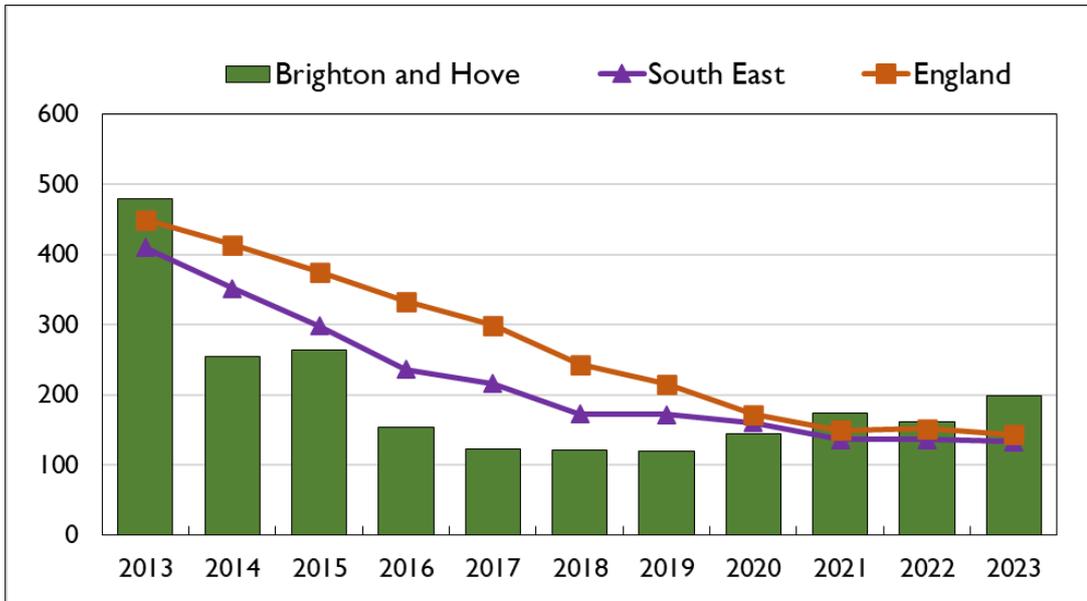
Figure 6- percentage of reoffending among children aged 10-17, by area and by year.



³⁹ [Youth Justice Board for England and Wales statistics webpage: 2023 to 2024.](#)

Ministry of Justice⁴⁰ statistics show 45 children aged between 10 and 17 were recorded as first time entrants to the justice system in calendar year 2023, a rate of 199 per 100,000 children – greater than the average rate of 134 children per 100,000 across the South East and 143 per 100,000 in England, as seen in **Figure 7**. This was higher than the 36 children recorded in 2022, and part of upward trend seen since 2020, following what was a longer-term decline in the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system.

Figure 7 - rate of first-time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system per 100,000 children aged 10 to 17, by area.



Adults

Risk factors associated with offending in adults

HM Prison and Probation Service listed the following factors which increase the risk that individuals will offend⁴¹.

- unstable accommodation
- a lack of employment
- no positive activities
- poor personal relationships or anti-social peers
- alcohol or drugs misuse
- impulsivity and poor emotional control
- attitudes that support crime

⁴⁰ [Youth justice statistics: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

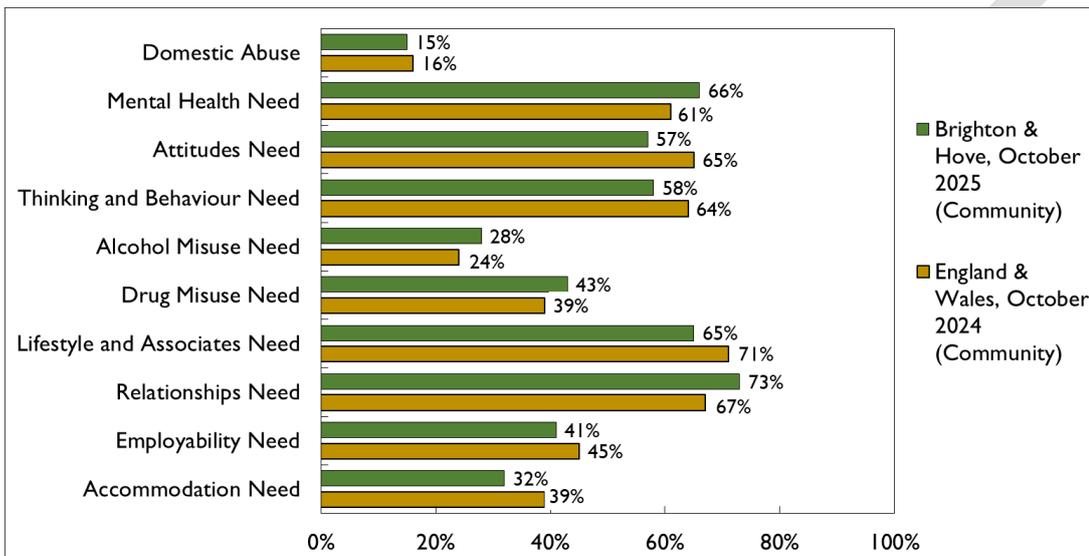
⁴¹ [Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service guidance webpage. Offending behaviour programmes and interventions - published 2018, updated 2022.](#)

Identified needs for Brighton & Hove probation caseload

Risk factors which influence behaviour of offenders – known as criminogenic needs - are assessed when anyone enters the probation caseload.

Figure 8 highlights a snapshot taken on 31 October 2024⁴² of the identified needs of offenders. In England and Wales, when identifying the criminogenic needs of offenders in the community, Lifestyle and Associate needs – relationships with criminal peers, risk-taking behaviours and activities which encourage or link to criminal behaviour – was the most common identified need, followed by Attitude needs, Relationships needs and Thinking & Behaviour needs.

Figure 8 - percentage of offenders with assessed criminogenic needs in Brighton & Hove and England & Wales.



Brighton & Hove level data has been obtained locally as of October 2025. The most commonly identified needs for offenders in the community with a Brighton & Hove address were around Relationships, Mental Health and Lifestyle and Associates, with around two-thirds or more of assessed offenders having needs in each of these areas.

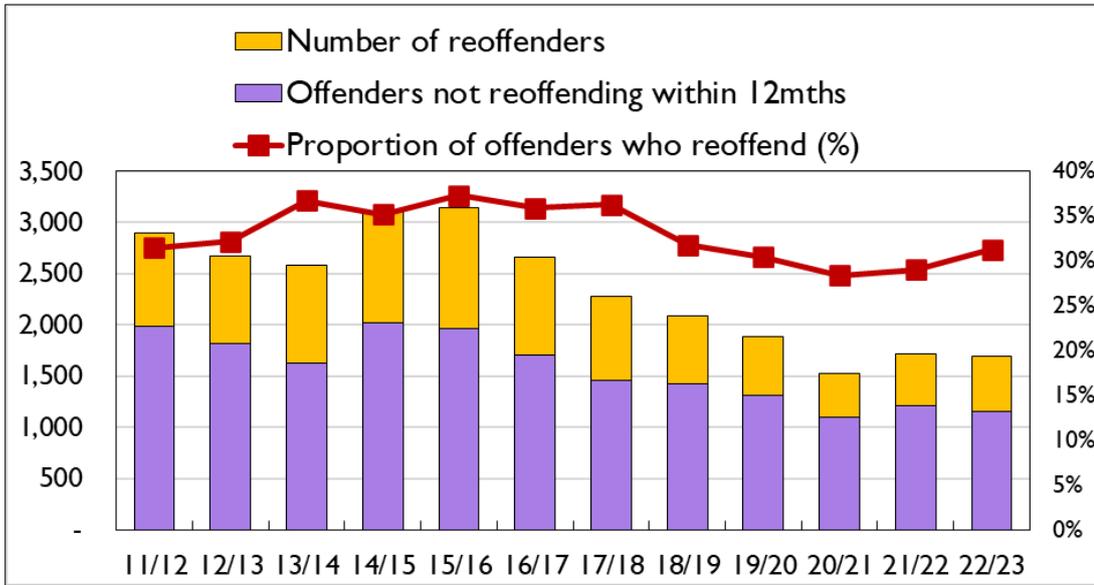
Offenders and reoffending in adults

Ministry of Justice statistics showed there were 1,690 adult offenders in the city in total in 2022/23, 1.4% fewer than in the previous year. In the previous 10 years, the number of adult offenders had increased to 3,143 by 2015/16, before decreasing steadily to 1,532 in 2020/21.

As shown in **Figure 9**, the proportion of offenders in the city who went on to reoffend within 12 months had increased to 37% of all offenders in 2015/16, decreasing to 28% by 2020/21 but increasing to 31% in 2022/23. This remained higher than the reoffending rate for the South East (23.3% in 2022/23) and England and Wales (26% in 2022/23), having remained consistently higher than both since 2012/13.

⁴² [Ministry of Justice webpage - Official Statistics: identified needs of offenders in custody and the community from OASys, published June 2025.](#)

Figure 9 - offenders and offending rates by adults in Brighton and Hove.



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5. Crime and disorder data and trends

Interpreting police recorded crime data – reporting and recording

The extent to which crimes are reported to the police varies greatly, while people's propensity to report may change over time. Under-reporting is particularly relevant for hate crimes, domestic abuse and sexual violence, but also affects many other crime types to varying extents. Data from the Crime Survey of England and Wales for the year ending March 2025 found that 96% of thefts of motor vehicles and 78% of domestic burglaries with loss were reported to the police. Meanwhile, 64% of violent offences with wounding were reported, but only 38% of violence without injury offences and 37% of domestic violence offences were reported. Other crime types that were particularly less likely to be reported to the police include criminal damage offences (40%), theft from person offences (38%) and theft from vehicles offences (35%).⁴³

Additionally, the interpretation of crime trends can be complicated by changes to police recording over time. This can be due to the definitions of crime changing, or to changes to the practice of police recording. Following a national audit in 2013⁴⁴ of data integrity in police recorded crime, many police forces, including Sussex Police, improved their recording processes. This led to increased numbers of crimes being recorded, particularly in violent crime types. However, a 2021/22 inspection rated Sussex Police as inadequate at recording crime. The most recent inspection in July 2025 acknowledged improvements made over this time period and rated the force as adequate in this area, whilst identifying that further work is needed on the recording of anti-social behaviour incidents and rape offences⁴⁵.

Volume

There were 30,342 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove in 2024/25. This was 4.2% higher than in the previous year and the fourth consecutive year in which total crimes increased in the city, following the sharp decrease in recorded crime in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As **Figure 10** shows, the trend in recorded crime since 2012/13 in the city largely mirrored the trends in recorded crime across England and Wales as a whole (both including and excluding computer offences and fraud) up until 2022/23. However, in the past two years, total crime in Brighton & Hove has increased by 6.2%, compared with a decrease of 4.8% in England and Wales (excluding fraud and computer misuse). Total crimes recorded in the city in 2024/25 were the highest seen over this period.

⁴³ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2025.](#)

⁴⁴ [Crime data integrity force reports - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.](#)

⁴⁵ [Sussex PEEL Assessment 2023–2025 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.](#)

Figure 10 - police-recorded crime in Brighton & Hove and England & Wales, 2013/14 to 2024/25.

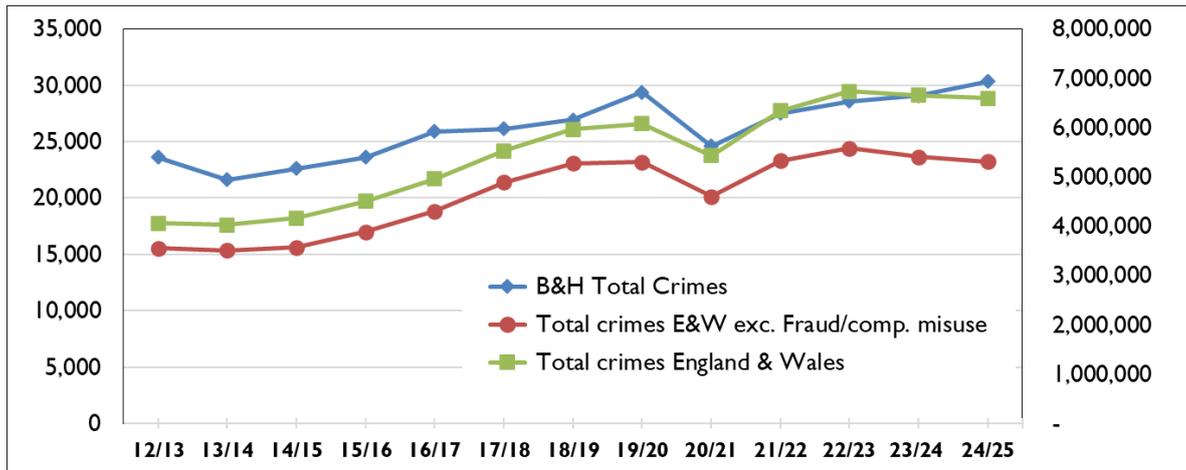
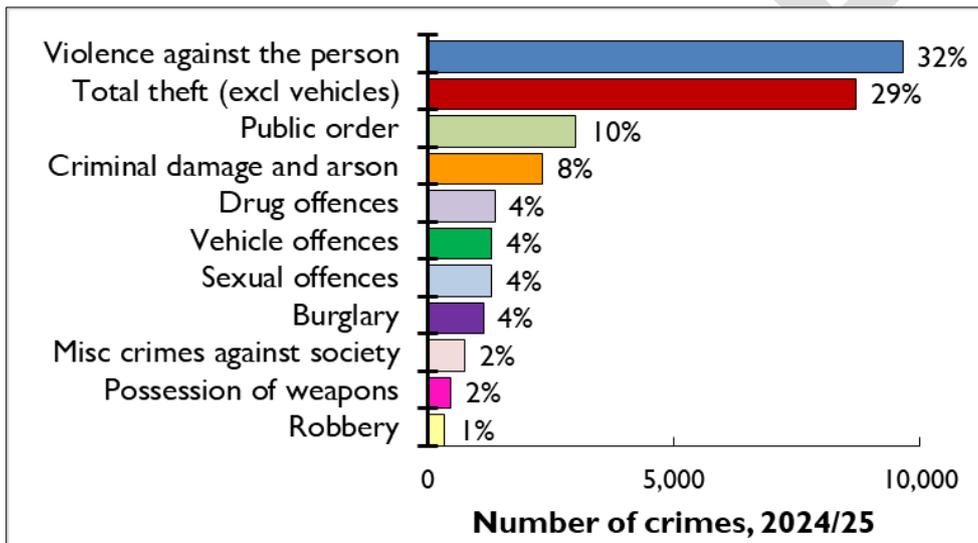


Figure 11 shows the different crime groups making up the total crime recorded in the city in 2024/25. Over the year, 32% of recorded crimes can be classified as violence against the person crimes, 29% total theft offences, 10% public order offences and 8% criminal damage/arson.

Figure 11 – police-recorded crime in Brighton & Hove by crime group, 2024/25.

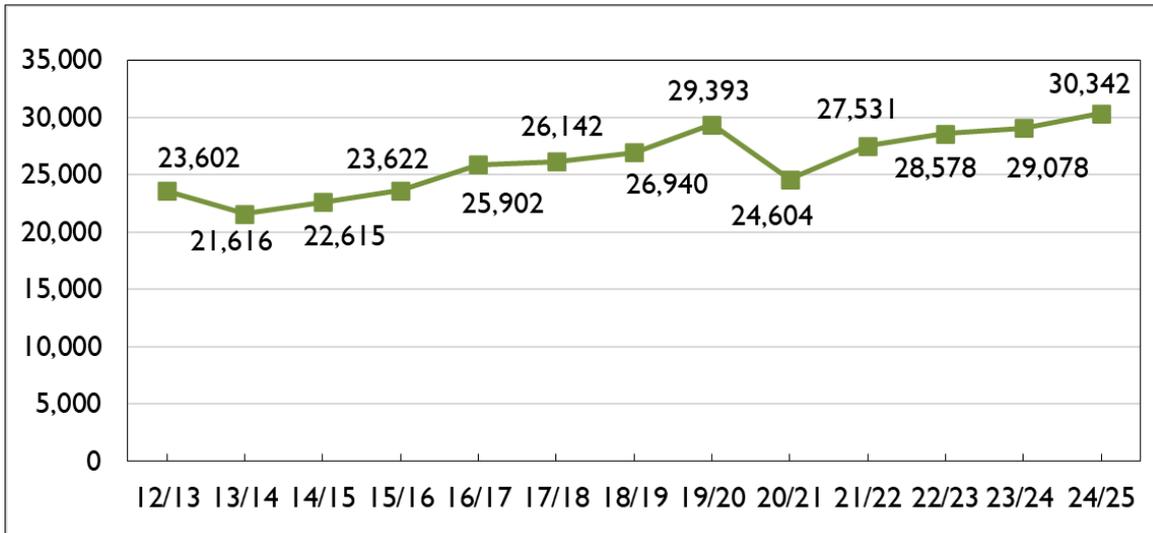


Compared with the previous two years, theft offences made up a larger proportion of total crimes in the city in 2024/25 (28.7% of crimes in 2024/25, 24.5% in 2022/23), as did drug offences (4.5% of crimes in 2024/25, 3.2% in 2022/23). **Appendix C: Crime statistics** provides more detail on the numbers of each crime type recorded by the police in 2024/25 and how this compares with the previous year.

Trends to 2024/25

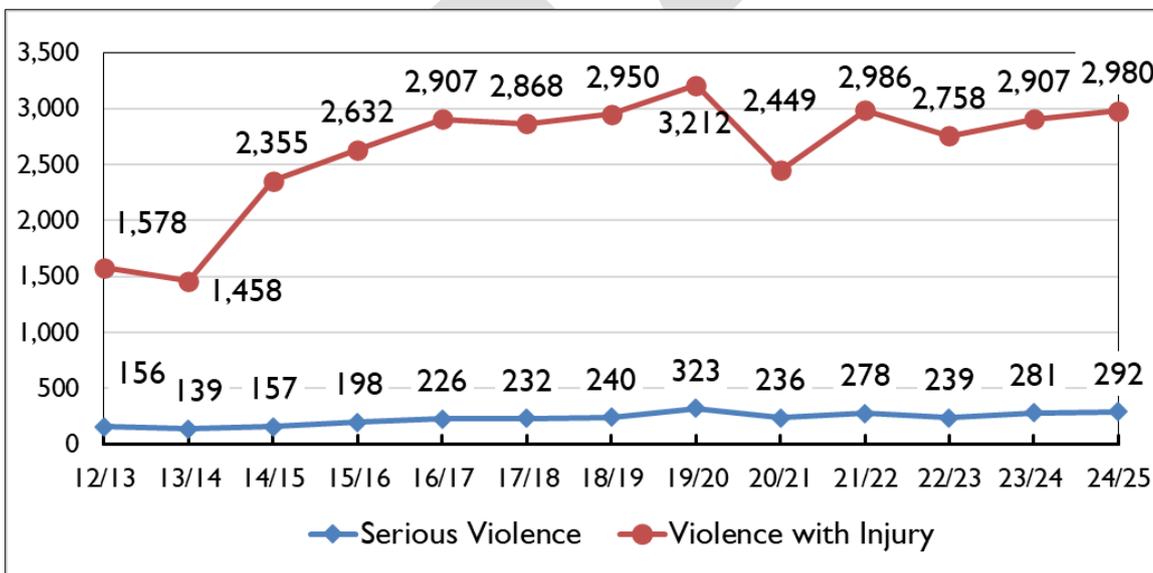
Figure 12 shows the long-term trend in police recorded crime data in Brighton & Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25, sorted by various crime groups.

Figure 12 - trends in police recorded crimes in Brighton and Hove from 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Total crimes in the city since 2013/14 had seen a steadily increasing trend before dropping sharply in 2020/21, following restrictions put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since 2021/22, recorded total crimes rose steadily – in 2024/25, the 30,342 crimes recorded were greater than the previous high in 2019/20 and a 4.2% increase since 2023/24.

Figure 13 – trends in violent crimes in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.

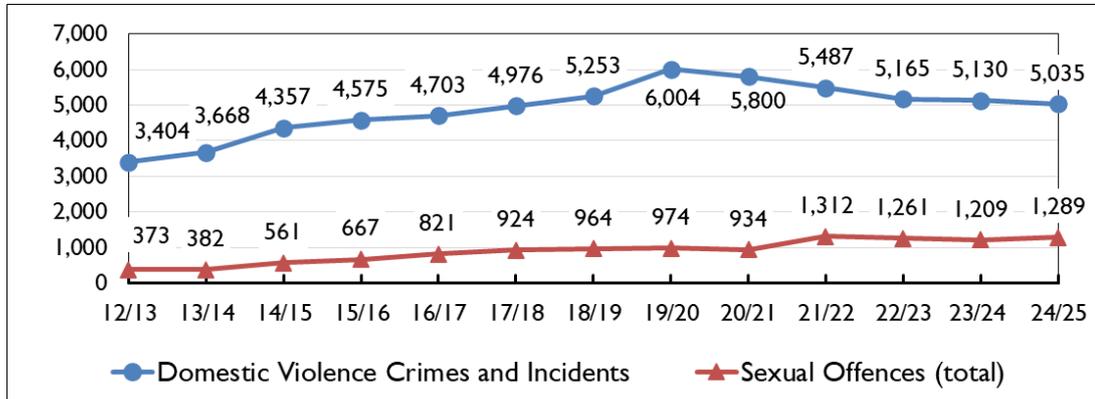


Trends in recorded violent crime in the city, as seen in **Figure 13**, have been similar to that of total crime. Since 2016/17, changes to recording practices were influenced by the Sussex Police response to an audit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (now the HMICFRS)⁴⁶ and

⁴⁶ [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) webpage - Sussex Police Crime Data Integrity inspection 2016 Report.](#)

an updated assessment in 2023⁴⁷. Accident and Emergency data on the number of patients attending hospital in Brighton & Hove due to assault, however, has not seen such an increase since the lifting of Covid-19 related restrictions. Following a sharp increase in 2021/22, the number of patients attending due to assault have decreased in each following year.

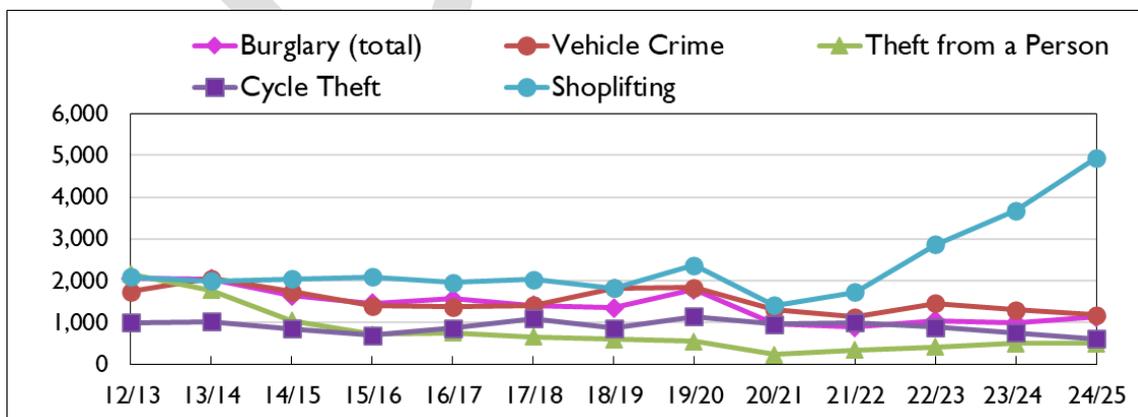
Figure 14 – trends in domestic violence and sexual offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.



Domestic violence and abuse crimes and incidents have continued to follow the trend seen in violent crimes, given domestic violence crimes and incidents are often recorded by police as violent in nature. Following a long-term high in recorded offences in 2019/20, domestic crimes and incidents decreased by a lesser degree than other crime groups but have continued to either decrease or remain stable since 2020/21, as seen in **Figure 14**. More information about changes to police recording of domestic violence and abuse crimes can be found in **Section 8**.

By contrast, sexual offences did not experience a decrease similar in magnitude to other crimes during 2020/21 and have remained consistently higher than the long-term average since 2021/22. Contributing to the steady longer-term increasing trend have been changes to police recording practices⁴⁸, alongside a change in public readiness to report these crimes. Despite this, both domestic and sexual violence offences continue to be under-reported crime types and remain far more prevalent than recorded crime figures suggest. Agencies from across the Community Safety Partnership continue to highlight that fear of not being believed is a key barrier to survivors reporting or seeking help.

Figure 15 - trends in assorted acquisitive crimes in Brighton and Hove, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



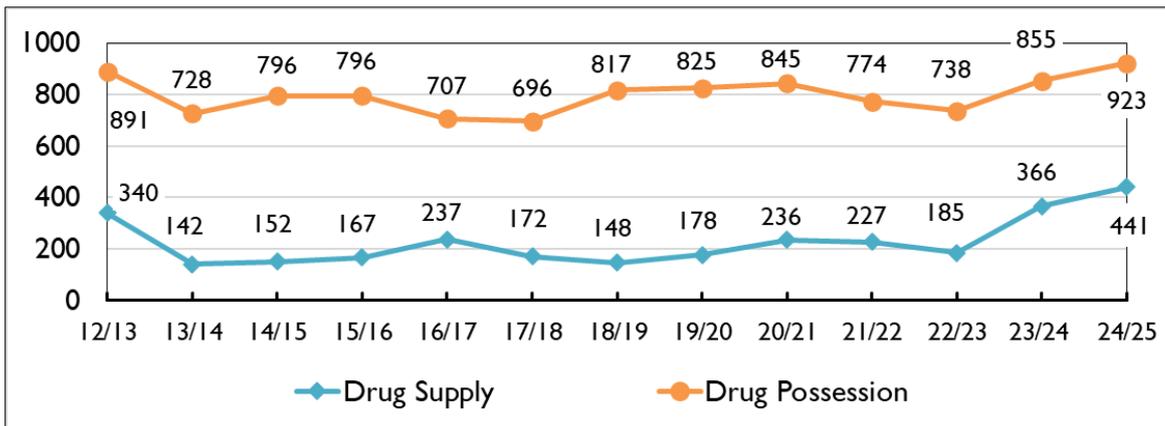
⁴⁷ [HMICFRS webpage - PEEL report for Sussex Police 2021/22.](#)

⁴⁸ [HMICFRS Report 2014 - Making the Victim Count - PDF.](#)

Police recorded acquisitive crimes had generally seen a downward trend in the city until around 2015/16, as seen in **Figure 15**. From then - excluding theft from the person crimes - most acquisitive crime groups began increasing until 2019/20, before falling sharply in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

Since 2020/21, most categories of acquisitive crime such as burglary and cycle theft have either remained at significantly lower levels or have increased slowly, remaining at recorded numbers well below those immediately before the pandemic. One notable exception to this is recorded shoplifting, which has increased by 187% since 2021/22 and by 34% in the last year.

Figure 16 - trends in drug offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.



Police recorded drug possession and drug supply offences had fluctuated since 2012/13 with no clear patterns or trends until 2023/24, from which time both crimes have increased significantly. This is seen in more detail in **Figure 16**. The number of police recorded drug offences are often influenced by specific police operations in this area.

Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences had remained stable in number – including during the pandemic-related lockdowns in 2020/21 – and have since decreased steadily in number in each following year, as seen in **Figure 17**.

Figure 17 - trends in criminal damage and arson offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.

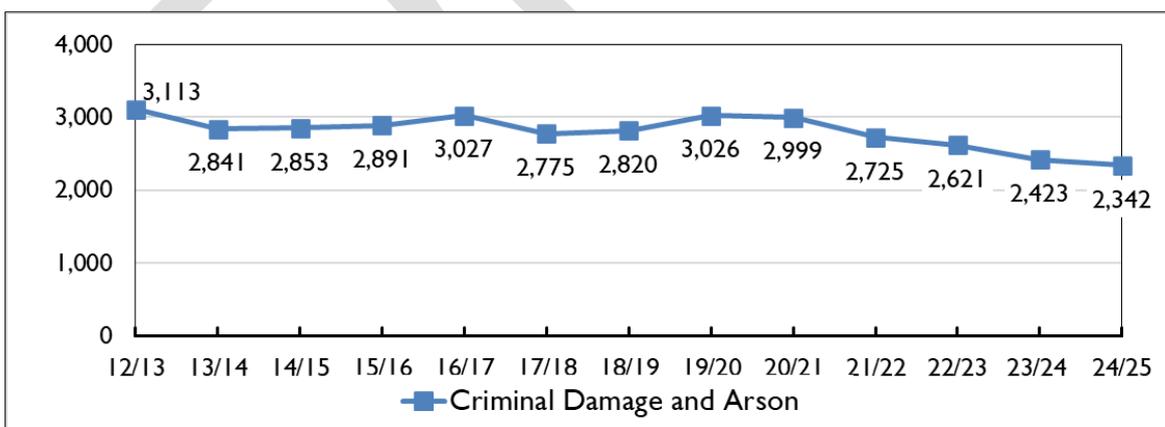


Figure 18 compares police recorded crimes in 2019/20 – the full year immediately before restrictions were placed on residents due to the Covid-19 pandemic - and 2024/25, the latest full year. Total recorded crimes were 3.2% higher in 2024/25, a long-term high; previously, 2019/20 had seen the most crimes recorded in recent history. Some crimes have decreased noticeably since 2019/20, including recorded burglaries (37% fewer), vehicle-related thefts and interference

(35% fewer) and robbery (27% fewer). However, compared with 2019/20, drug offences were higher (36% greater), as were recorded sexual offences (32% greater) and non-vehicle-related theft (19% greater).

Figure 18 - percentage changes in key crime types between 2019/20 and 2024/25.

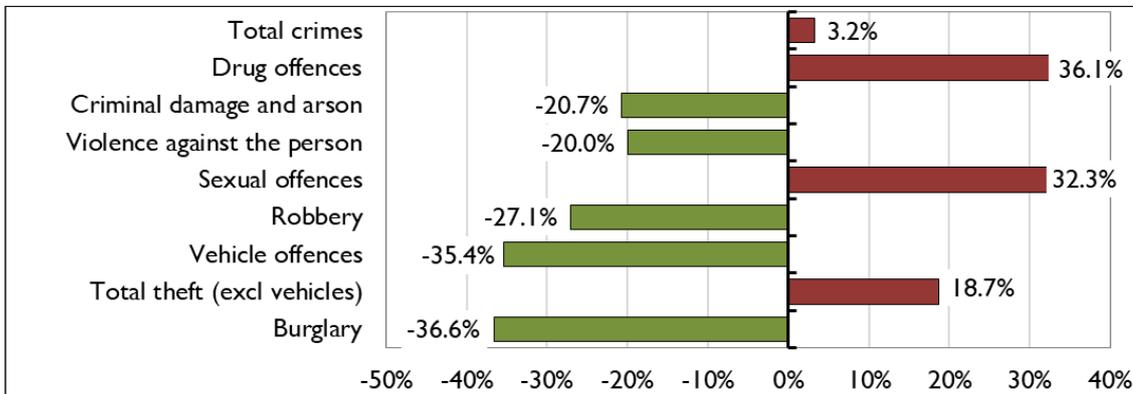
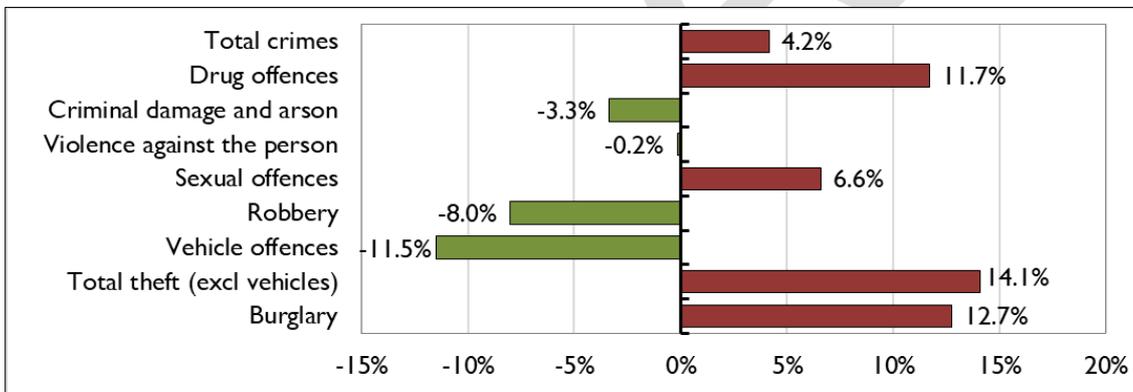


Figure 19 shows the percentage changes in the last year for the same major crime types, between 2023/24 and 2024/25. This shows a 4.2% increase in total crime, a 14% increase in non-vehicle-related theft, as well as increases in burglary (13%) and drug offences (12%). There were reductions seen in other crime types such as vehicle-related theft or interference offences (12% fewer), robbery (8% fewer) and criminal damage and arson (3% fewer). It is important to note that changes in recording practices and targeted campaigns and operations are likely to affect the number of recorded crimes and therefore trends should be interpreted with continued caution.

Figure 19 - percentage changes in key crime types between 2023/24 and 2024/25.



Police recorded crime data on different topics is discussed further in the thematic sections of this report, starting at **Section 7**.

6. Impact of crime and disorder

Feeling safe

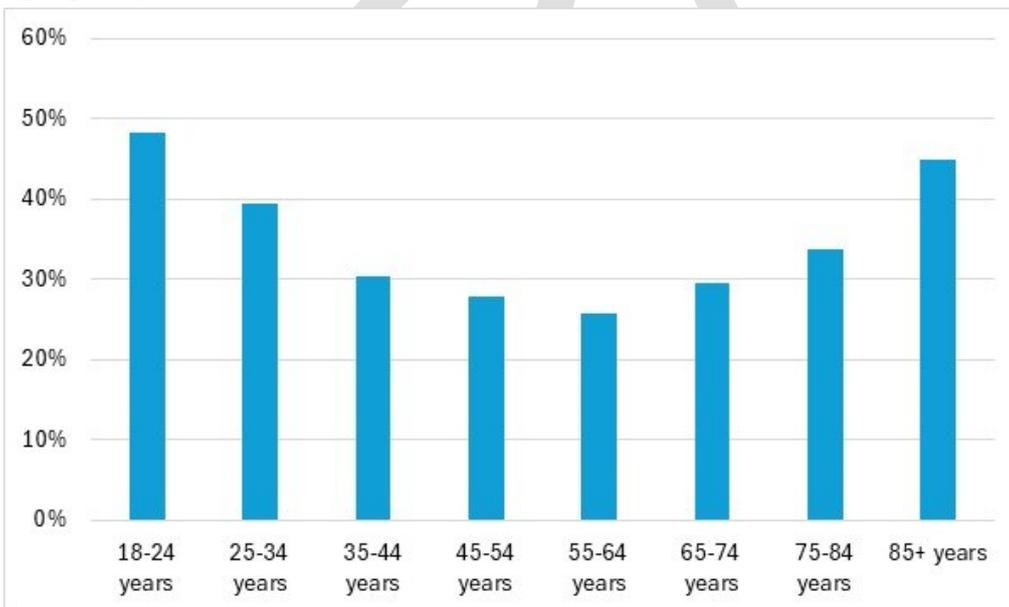
Adults

Health Counts⁶ is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including around feelings of safety. It provides important evidence of inequalities in parts of the city and faced by particular groups. There were 16,729 respondents and results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate.

Health Counts asked how safe respondents feel walking alone in their local area within approximately 15 minutes from their home, both during the day and at night. During the day, 96% of respondents report feeling safe in their local area (71% felt very safe, 25% felt fairly safe), with 4% reporting feeling unsafe (3% felt a bit unsafe, 1% felt very unsafe). At night, this drops to 65% of respondents who report feeling safe walking alone in their local area (21% felt very safe, 44% felt fairly safe) with 34% feeling unsafe (26% a bit unsafe, 8% very unsafe).

This question changed in Health Counts 2024 compared to the Brighton & Hove City Tracker survey 2018. The option for "neither safe nor unsafe" was removed, and the option for "fairly unsafe" was replaced with "a bit unsafe" to match the ONS survey. Feelings of safety during the daytime have changed little since 2018 but fewer respondents feel very safe at night in 2024 compared to 2018 (A fall from 36% to 21%) and more very unsafe (an increase from 3% to 8%).

Figure 20 - percentage of people feeling unsafe walking alone in their local area at night, by age group.



However, some groups within the local population feel less safe than others. Around a third of all respondents felt very or a bit unsafe walking alone at night. The following groups were more likely to feel unsafe:

- Younger adults (aged 18-24 years and 25-34 years), as well as respondents aged 85 years and over (see **Figure 20**).

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- Women (48%), Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) (41%) respondents compared with 19% of men.
- Disabled adults (48%); However, this difference was particularly marked amongst some groups with long-term physical or mental health conditions, such as respondents with speech and language conditions (78%), developmental conditions (67%), a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (62%), or a learning disability (61%).
- There was no significant difference in feelings of safety for most ethnic groups, however Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller respondents were significantly more likely to feel very or a bit unsafe at night (61%).
- Those living in temporary or emergency accommodation (60%).
- Those with experience of the care system as a child/ young person (45%).
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and other non-heterosexual sexual orientation (LGBQ+) adults (40%).
- Respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city are significantly more likely to report feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone in their local area at night compared with all respondents (48% living in the most deprived quintile according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

The maps in **Figure 21** and **Figure 22** show that those living in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, Queen's Park, Kemptown, and Whitehawk and Marina wards were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area both during the day and at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Figure 21 – proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area during the day, by ward.

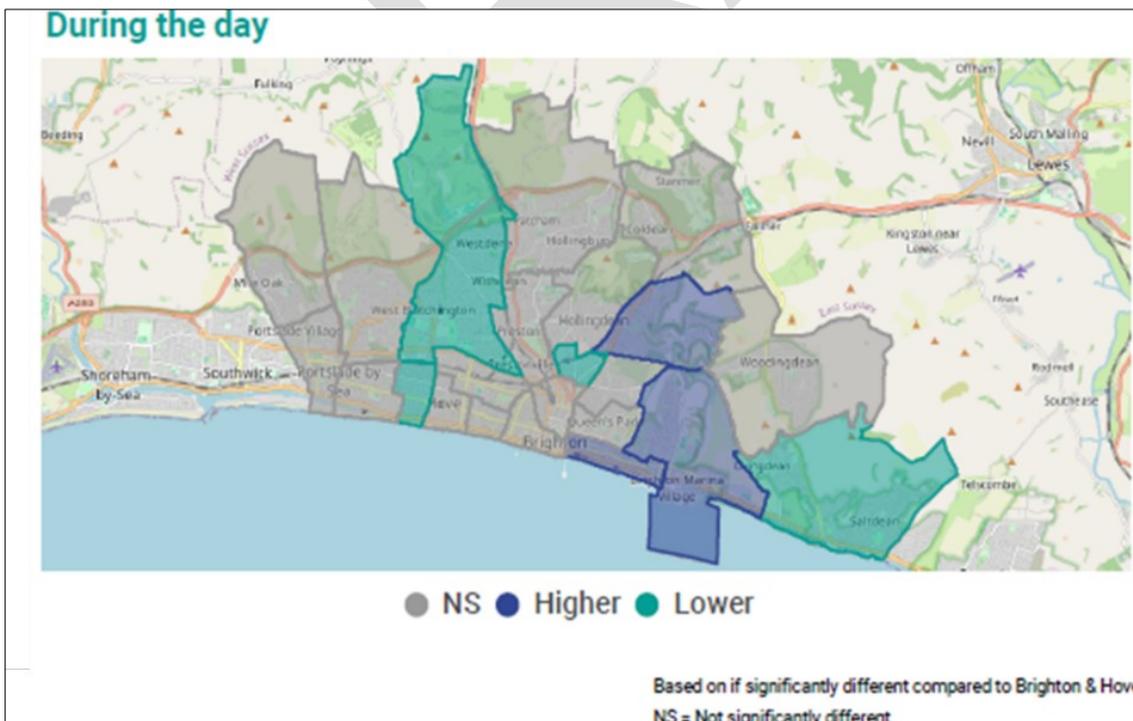
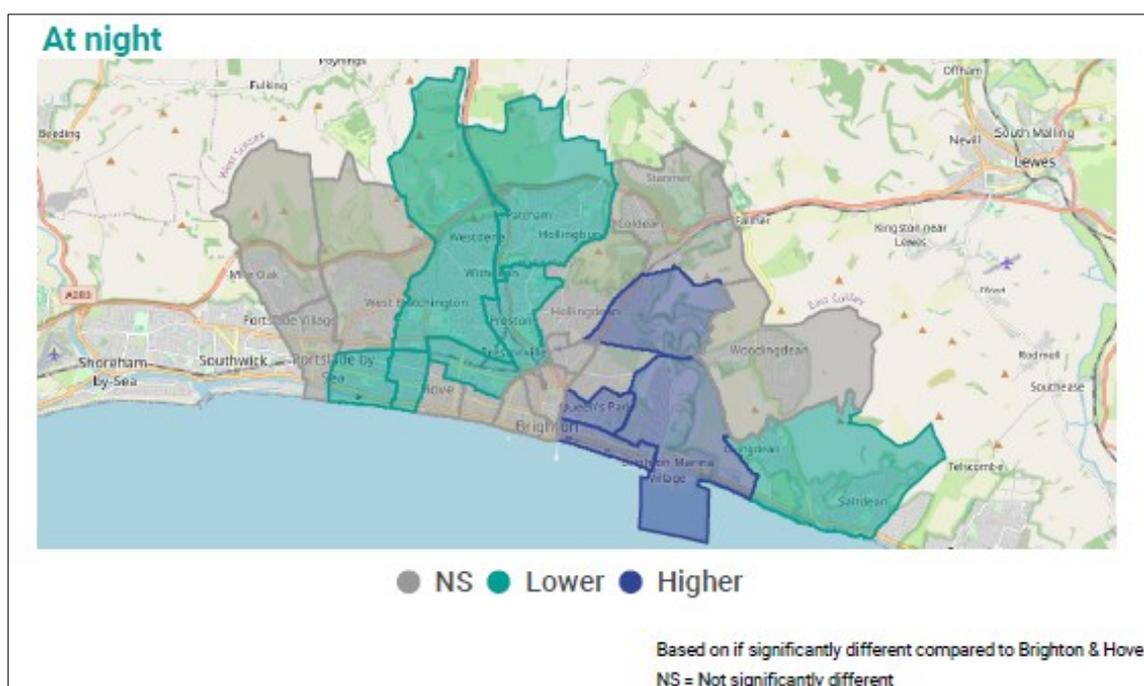


Figure 22 - proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area at night, by ward.



Children

Data around how safe school pupils felt at school continues to be collected in the city’s Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS)⁴⁹. When at school, 90% of children in Key Stage 2 (ages 8 to 11) agreed that they felt safe at school, compared with 70% of children in Key Stage 3 (ages 11 to 14), and 71% in Key Stage 4 (ages 15 to 16).

The proportion of children in the city saying they felt safe at school has followed a downward trend since 2014. For children in Key Stage 2, this proportion has remained relatively consistent around 90% since 2015, having decreased from 94% in 2014. However, in Key Stage 3 this proportion has fallen steadily in each survey since 2014 (91%), including an especially significant decrease between the 2021 survey (78%) and the 2023 survey (70%). A similar pattern followed for children in Key Stage 4, falling in each iteration of the survey from 91% feeling safe at school in 2014 to 2021 (77%) and 2023 (71%).

% who strongly agree or agree with the statement “I feel safe at school”	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2021	2023
KS2 ages 8 to 11 years	94%	94%	94%	91%	90%	89%	92%	90%
KS3 ages 11 to 14 years	88%	89%	91%	88%	84%	82%	78%	70%
KS4 ages 14 to 16 years	88%	89%	90%	86%	82%	82%	76%	71%
All secondary – ages 11 to 16 years	88%	89%	91%	87%	84%	82%	77%	71%

⁴⁹ [Infogram webpage - Brighton & Hove City Council - Safe & Well at School Survey 2023.](#)

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In 2023, the following groups of secondary school pupils (Key Stages 3 and 4) were statistically significantly less likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement “I feel safe at school” (compared with 71% for all pupils):

- Black and racially minoritised students (68%) compared with White British students (72%).
- Students who were LGB+, unlabelled or unsure of their sexuality (58%) compared with heterosexual / straight students (74%).
- Students who did not or did not always identify with the gender they were given at birth (50%) compared with those who always did (72%).
- Girls (68%) compared with boys (75%).
- Young carers (52%) compared with those who are not young carers (72%).
- Students experiencing the highest levels of financial hardship (65%) compared with those in the middle and lower financial hardship groups (72%).
- Students who are care-experienced or living with Kinship Carers (60%) compared with those not care-experienced (71%).
- Students receiving extra help in school (57%) compared with those not receiving extra help (72%).

The survey also asks pupils whether they felt safe when travelling to and from school, as well as when they were in their own neighbourhood alone or with friends. In the 2023 survey, 86% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 91% of secondary aged children strongly agreed or agreed that they felt safe travelling to school and back, both similar to the 2021 survey.

These proportions decreased slightly when asking whether children felt safe when alone or with friends in their own neighbourhood, with 79% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 87% of secondary school aged children reported feeling safe, the same as in the 2021 version of the survey.

% who strongly agree or agree with the statement “I feel safe travelling to school and back alone or with friends”	2023
KS2 – ages 8-11 years	86%
KS3 – ages 11-14 years	91%
KS4 – ages 14-16 years	90%
All secondary – ages 11-16 years	91%

% who strongly agree or agree with the statement “I feel safe in my neighbourhood alone or with friends”	2023
KS2 – ages 8-11 years	79%
KS3 – ages 11-14 years	89%
KS4 – ages 14-16 years	85%
All secondary – ages 11-16 years	87%

Sussex-wide consultation (adults and children)

The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (SPCC) ran its annual Talk Sussex survey between September and October 2024, asking residents about their main concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour. The most common concerns raised were anti-social behaviour (31% of respondents), violence against women and girls (21%) and county lines-related crime (12%). When asked what would assure them that crime was being effectively tackled in Sussex, 36% of Brighton & Hove residents rated having visible police officers and PCSOs as the most important

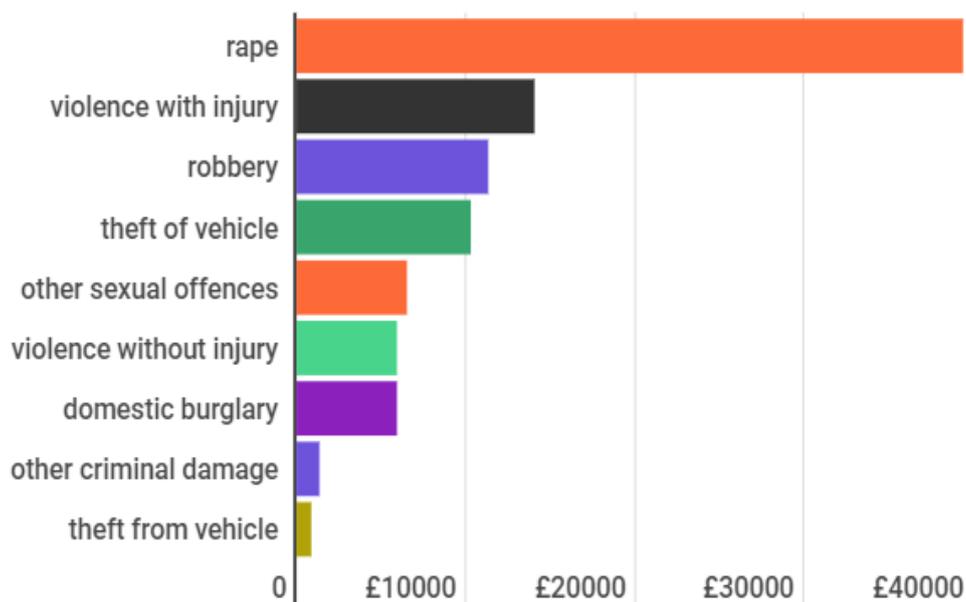
action, followed by improved police engagement (18%) and a stronger focus on the safety of women and girls (17%).

Community feedback collated by the SPCC from residents of Brighton and Hove throughout 2024 highlighted shoplifting as an important issue, including noting the reluctance of businesses to report crimes due to concern that crimes would not be solved. Further common concerns raised by city residents included fear around walking or being alone at night in some public spaces and on public transport – especially for women and girls – due to street drinking, drugs, antisocial behaviour and other safety concerns. Frequently raised suggestions included improvements to street lighting, CCTV and dedicated safe spaces as a way of improving safety for children and young people.

Cost of crime

The financial impact of crime is significant to both victims and to society as a whole. A Home Office report estimated the financial costs attributable to crimes both to individual people or households and to businesses⁵⁰. **Figure 23** provides estimates of the ‘whole system’ costs of personal/domestic crimes - recognising that estimated costs of a crime to businesses are often higher - which take into account direct costs of loss from the crime itself, costs of anticipating crime and costs of responding to crime. The latest available estimate (2015/16) of the cost of a single homicide was £3.2m, and the next most costly was rape at £39,000, followed by violence with injury at £14,000. Whilst more up to date estimates are not available, we can anticipate that these costs will now be even greater, accounting for inflation.

Figure 23 - Estimated cost of a single ‘personal/domestic’ crime, 2015/16, £.



⁵⁰ [Home Office webpage - 'Research Report 2018 - The Economic Costs of Crime.'](#) Based on costs in 2015/16.

7. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

Introduction

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation pose a significant threat to public safety through the harm experienced by individuals, families and communities. Violence is often linked to the criminal exploitation of vulnerable individuals by organised networks involved in the drug trade. Homicide, while a relatively low-volume offence, disproportionately affects people of Black ethnicity, and teenage victims are far more likely than victims of all ages to be killed by a knife or a sharp instrument⁵¹.

Factors that contribute to or drive violence are complex and multi-faceted. Repeat offending, in both adults and young people, can be characterised by multiple risk factors, which include school non-attendance, susceptibility to criminal influence, a history of childhood behavioural problems, substance use and accommodation issues^{52,53}. Perpetrators of violent crime are also disproportionately concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Online platforms introduce further complexity to these crimes, with an independent review highlighting significant vulnerabilities in the sale and delivery of knives, such as weak age verification. These vulnerabilities also include the rise of a grey market on social media and challenges in policing imports from abroad⁵⁴. Additionally, the systems meant to protect children and young people from violence are complex and hard to access, influencing how effective they can be^{55,56}.

Schools play an important role in safeguarding children at risk of involvement in serious violence and exploitation, but safeguarding leads report challenges in accessing timely support for those at risk⁵⁷. Referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the criminal exploitation of children and young people have increased by 45% since 2021 nationally⁵⁸. To highlight the challenges faced by systems, the Jay Review states that exploited children are often treated as criminals rather than victims.

Protective factors against exploitation, drugs and involvement in violence centre on strong, supportive systems and relationships. Effective, trusted key workers can act as a crucial bridge

⁵¹ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Homicide in England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

⁵² [Ministry of Justice webpage - Research Report, 2025 - A Profile of Repeat Offending by Children and Young People in England and Wales.](#)

⁵³ [Ministry of Justice webpage - Research Report, 2025, Criminogenic needs of prolific offenders.](#)

⁵⁴ [Home Office webpage - Independent Report, 2025 - Independent end-to-end review of online knife sales.](#)

⁵⁵ [Youth Endowment Fund webpage - Research Report - Tindle et al, 2023. Serious Violence - foundational system mapping.](#)

⁵⁶ [Department for Education webpage - Open Innovation Team research and analysis report 2023 - The role of systems of support in serious youth violence: evidence and gaps](#)

⁵⁷ [Youth Endowment Fund Report. Griffiths et al, 2025. Safeguarding, Education and Serious Youth Violence in England and Wales - PDF.](#)

⁵⁸ [Action for Children webpage. Policy report, 2024. Shattered lives, stolen futures: The Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children.](#)

between young people and complex support systems, empowering them to shape their own journey away from violence⁵⁹. A public health approach to tackling violence looks at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem, but instead as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse childhood experiences or harmful social or community experiences and influences⁶⁰. A multi-agency approach that brings together statutory services, the criminal justice system and community and voluntary resources, is vital to addressing violence, exploitation and drug-related harm holistically.

Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) aim to prevent and reduce serious violence, particularly among young people aged 24 and under, by adopting a whole-systems approach⁶¹. The new Young Futures programme seeks to identify and support young people most at risk of being drawn in to violence crime, with Prevention Panels and Young Futures Hubs which will be implemented during the lifetime of this strategy.

National and local context

The 2018 Home Office Serious Violence Strategy introduced Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in the areas most impacted by serious violent crime and aimed to promote a public health approach to addressing serious violence. Sussex's version of a VRU is the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership, under which sit 'spokes' for Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex. The Brighton & Hove 'spoke' (BHVRP) is responsible for commissioning interventions that best tackle the serious violent crime risks, vulnerabilities and indicators set out in the Sussex VRP's Strategic Needs Assessment for Serious Violent Crime.

The BHVRP has been in operation since 2019 and funds a range of interventions including detached youthwork, a navigator programme at the Children's A&E department and sports-based diversion and mentoring. The BHVRP has also undertaken work to elevate the voices of young people and communities most impacted by serious violence.

The Serious Violence Duty came into force in early 2023. This conferred further responsibilities on certain public sector 'specified authorities' (including Local Authorities) to work together to reduce serious violent crime. This came along with some transitional funding to support the implementation of the duty, which in Brighton & Hove was used to support improvements to community engagement with children and young people locally.

The upcoming Crime and Policing Bill (expected to come in to force in 2026) will focus on tackling serious violence, child sexual abuse and violence against women and girls, as well as protecting the public and town centres from antisocial behaviour, retail crime and shop theft. The bill is anticipated to introduce new offences relating to assaults on retail workers, child criminal exploitation and cuckooing, as well as legal penalties for online platforms that sell knives without sufficient safeguards. The partnership is monitoring the bill as it progresses to understand what impacts or opportunities this will present to the local provision.

⁵⁹ [Department for Education publication, PDF. Crest Advisory - The role of key workers in supporting children and young people with experience of serious youth violence, February 2025.](#)

⁶⁰ [Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Strategy Document, PDF. Violence Reduction Partnership: Serious Violence Strategy 2023.](#)

⁶¹ [Home office webpage - Research and analysis: Violence Reduction Unit, year ending March 2024 evaluation report.](#)

The Government has announced a Young Futures Programme to address the needs of vulnerable young people who are at risk of being drawn into gangs, violence or knife crime. This will involve Young Futures Prevention Partnerships, that will operate over Police Force area level and will sit within the existing structure of the Sussex VRP locally. This programme is introducing Prevention Panels aimed at identifying and supporting children and young people with indicators of risk, operating at Local Authority area level. West Sussex are piloting a Prevention Panel for the Sussex VRP and will be operational from October 2025. This pilot will run until April 2027, though it is anticipated that Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex may be required to implement their own local panels before then. The government has also announced Young Futures Hubs to help create opportunity for all and keep our streets safe. They will bring together vital local services in the local community, providing support ranging from well-being and mental health to careers advice.

The governments' 'From Harm to Hope' 10-year drug strategy has been in place since 2021, with strategic priorities on breaking drug supply chains, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs⁶². Where appropriate these priorities are aligned actions, set out in our current Violence and Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP), particularly those focused on preventing exploitation and supporting those who have been exploited.

Brighton & Hove City Council published a [Complex Adolescent Strategy](#) in 2020 which was refreshed for April 2023. This is overseen by the city's Strategic Adolescent Partnership Board. This and the Brighton & Hove Youth Justice which it underpins, are aligned with this strategy area and the relevant action plans.

Sussex Police continues to develop their response to all forms of exploitation including an internal strategy with action plans related to child exploitation, county lines, modern slavery, human trafficking, organised immigration crime and serious violence with a key focus on recognising vulnerability before criminality. A specialist Exploitation Team has been in place since 2022 to support this area of work.

Following a successful joint bid to the Home Office along with colleagues in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove City Council has since early 2023 had a local decision-making panel for potential child victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking who have entered the National Referral Mechanism. This is a pilot scheme which is anticipated to eventually become a statutory requirement. The local meeting is chaired by the Head of Adolescent Services and has led to swifter and more robust decision making.

The Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Operation Cuckoo meeting continues to develop its local practice in identifying and supporting victims and disrupting perpetrators. The meeting is developing a process to address repeat enablers and perpetrators of cuckooing. Work is underway by Sussex Police's Exploitation Team to map the tools and powers available, and what terms could be imposed with them to disrupt perpetrators.

Following recommendations from a number of Adult Safeguarding Reviews, Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) has been developing its approach to key transitional moments for vulnerable young people, to better ensure continuity of care and early identification and intervention of

⁶² [HM Government webpage. Policy paper - From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives, published December 2021.](#)

potential risks. This work has been led at Director level within Adult Social Care under the Transitions to Adulthood programme, with multiagency input and buy-in. As part of this work a Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) meeting has been operational since early 2025, which provides a forum to discuss individuals with Multiple and Compound Needs (MCN) for whom the existing multi-agency arrangements are struggling to appropriately address their complexity of risk and needs. A wider Transitions Strategy that will underpin this area of work is due to be published by Brighton and Hove City Council in 2026, including a dedicated Transitional Safeguarding Protocol that will establish the agreed local pathways and thresholds for meeting the needs of children and young people nearing adulthood, who may require support over this transition point and beyond.

Digital platforms increasingly shape how individuals and communities communicate but can also impact the way in which individuals are targeted, exploited, or harmed. Image-based abuse, fraud, exposure to violent content and the role of social media in escalating conflict have the capacity to cause significant real-world harm and impact perceptions of safety.

Overview of scale and trends

Violence

Violence with injury offences and serious violent crime

- In 2024/25 there were 2,980 **violence with injury offences** recorded by police in the city. This was 2.5% higher than in the previous year, but around 2% lower than the long-term peak in 2019/20 where 3,044 crimes were recorded.
- There were 292 **serious violent crimes** recorded in 2024/25, continuing a recent increasing trend; this was 3.9% higher than in the previous year. The trend in serious violent crimes remains similar to that of **violence with injury**, with a long-term peak in 2019/20, followed by a substantial decrease during 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a steady increase toward the 2019/20 high since.
- A seasonal pattern continues to exist, with the highest number of recorded violence with injury offences taking place in the summer months, decreasing substantially in the autumn and winter before increasing again the following spring.

Figure 24 - Violence with injury crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.

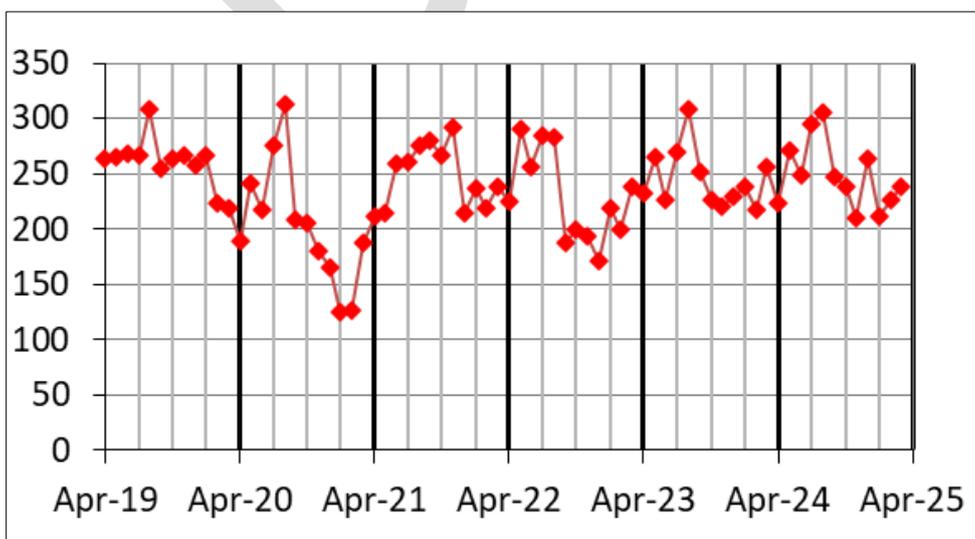
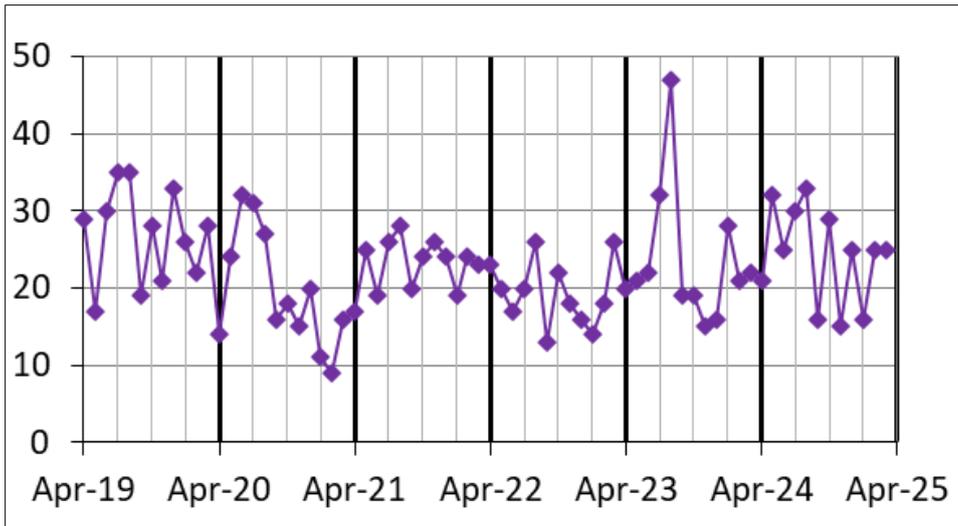


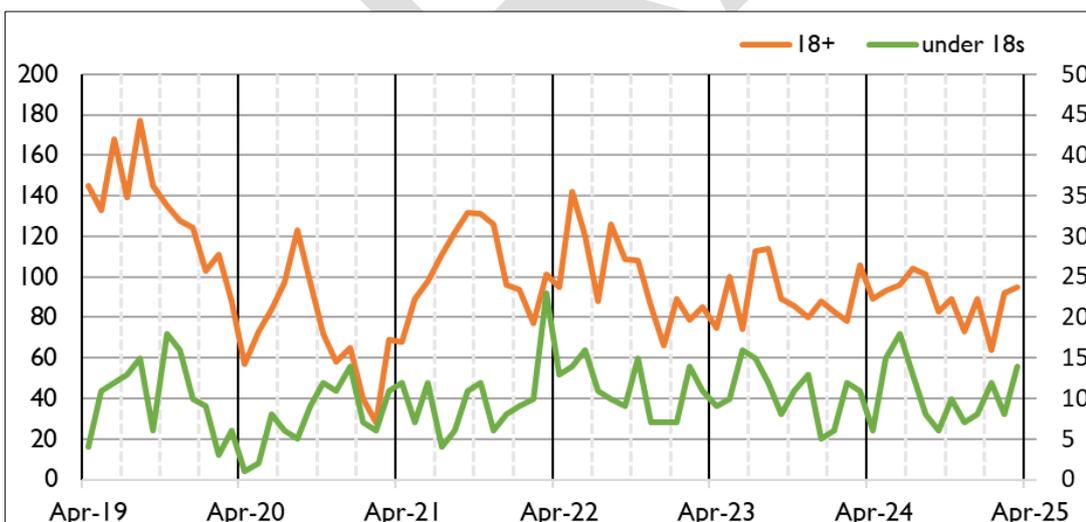
Figure 25 - Serious violence crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.



A&E Attendances

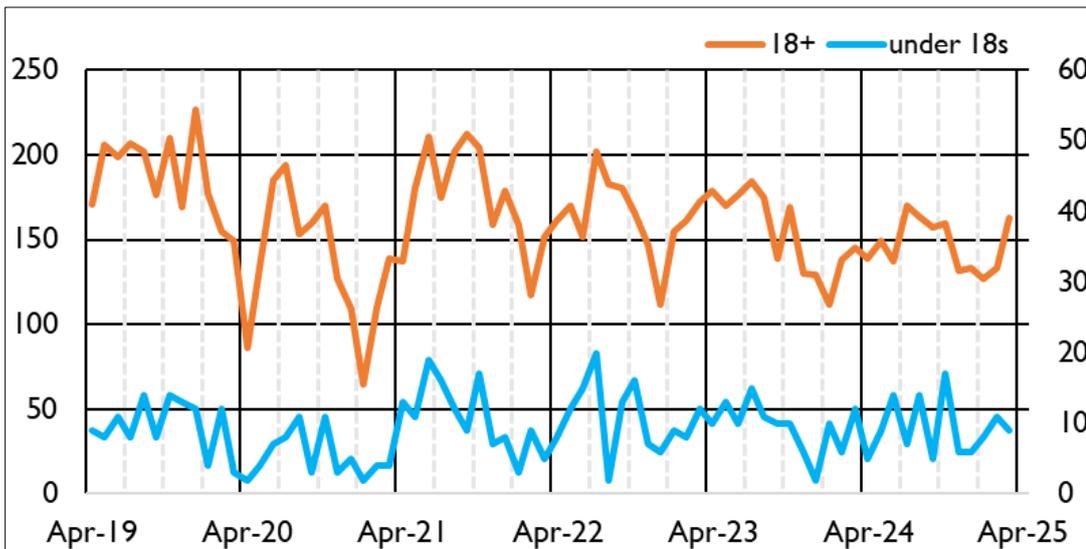
- In 2024/25 there were 3,035 attendances at A&E in Brighton & Hove hospitals⁶³ due to alcohol and/or assault, continuing a gradual decreasing trend in attendances for both reasons since 2021/22 when 3,535 were recorded. Among these, 1,193 were attendances due to assault, also part of a steady decreasing trend since 2021/22.
- Among the 1,193 attendances at A&E due to assault in 2024/25, 10.5% were for patients aged under 18; patients aged under 18 also made up of 5.9% of the 1,875 total attendances to A&E which had a flag for alcohol. Since 2022/23, the proportion of attendances due to assault and due to alcohol being related to people aged under 18 has remained consistent.

Figure 26 – attendances at Accident and Emergency departments in Brighton & Hove due to assault, April 2019 to March 2025 (Symphony data).



⁶³ These figures include people not resident of Brighton & Hove attending A&E at a hospital in the city and does not include residents attending A&E elsewhere.

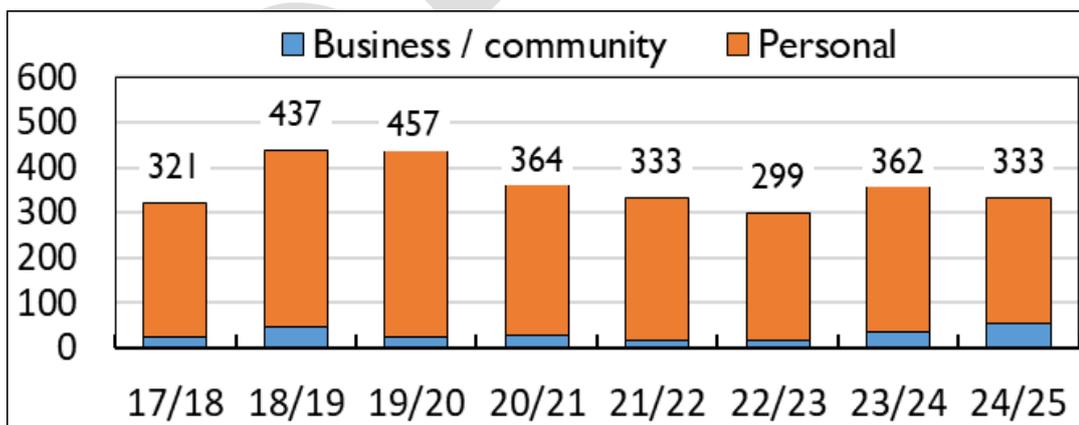
Figure 27 - at Accident and Emergency departments in Brighton & Hove due to alcohol, April 2019 to March 2025 (Symphony data).



Robberies

- There were 333 total robberies recorded by police in 2024/25, 281 of which were perpetrated against the person and 52 against businesses. This was 8% lower than in 2023/24 and around 27% lower than the long-term peak of 457 recorded in 2019/20. Total robberies had been in general decline from that point until 2023/24, as shown in **Figure 28**.
- The number of personal robberies recorded in the city decreased by 6% in 2024/25, with 281 recorded. However, robberies recorded against businesses increased in 2024/25; the 52 crimes recorded was 53% higher than in the previous year, and higher than the previous long-term peak of 45 in 2019/20 - between 15 and 27 business robberies per year had been recorded in the previous 10 years.

Figure 28. Personal and Business Robbery Crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.

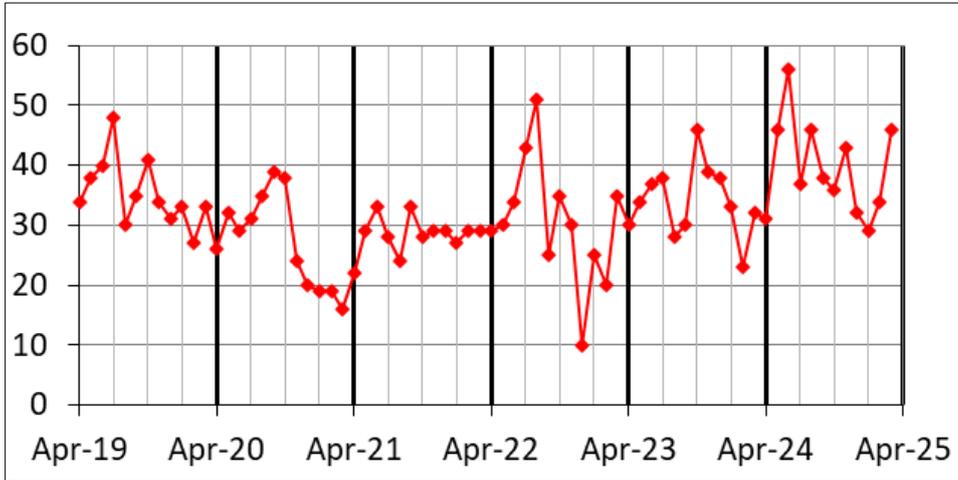


- Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) data showed a significant increase in robberies reported to it since 2021; following the 11 robberies reported to them in 2021, 38 were reported in 2022 and 59 in 2023, decreasing to 34 in 2024.

Carrying and use of weapons

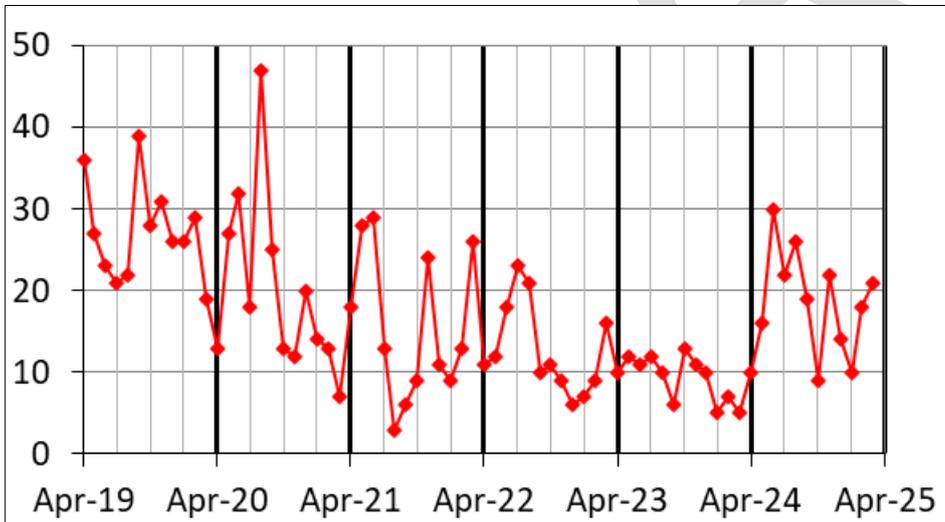
- There were 474 weapons possession crimes in 2024/25, 15% higher than the 411 recorded the previous year. This number is also 12% greater than the previous long-term high, when 424 were recorded in 2019/20.

Figure 29 – Possession of weapons crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.



- Sussex Police recorded 217 crimes where a knife or sharp instrument was flagged as being used, 90% higher than in the previous year and markedly the highest in the last three years, having previously been in a downwards trend since 2019/20 when 326 were recorded.

Figure 30 – Knife or sharp instrument crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.

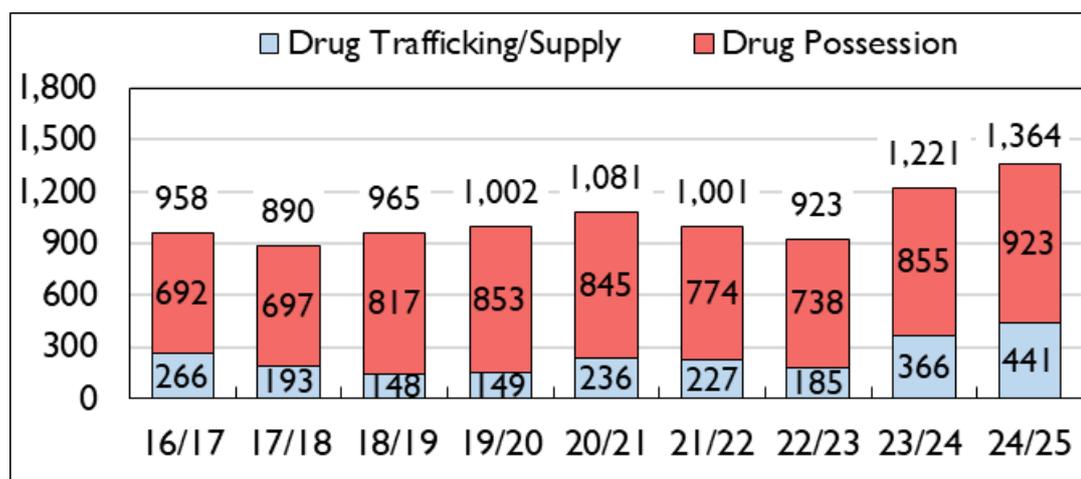


Drugs

Drug offences

- Sussex Police recorded 441 drugs trafficking / supply crimes in 2024/25, a long-term high, alongside 923 drug possession crimes recorded, also a long-term high.

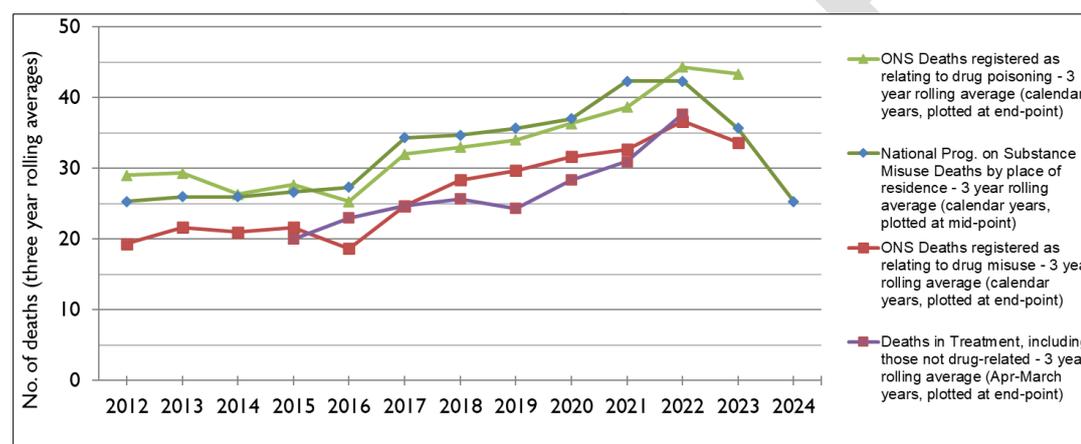
Figure 31 – police recorded drugs supply and drugs possession offences, 2014/15 to 2024/25.



Drug-related deaths

- There are several different ways in which the number of drug-related deaths can be measured, some of which are presented in **Figure 32**.

Figure 32 - Drug related deaths in Brighton and Hove, 2012 to 2014 using various methods and data sources.



- Following a consistent increasing trend seen since 2016 until 2021, most measures for calendar year 2023 indicated a levelling or a slight decrease in drug-related deaths – though it is important to note that figures continue to be updated retrospectively following coroners’ inquests and other investigations.
- Brighton & Hove has continued to have disproportionately more drug-related deaths than England as a whole, and this difference has been increasingly stark since the three-year period 2014-16⁶⁴. In 2014-16 the death rates were still notably higher (6.5 per 100,000 people in Brighton & Hove, 4.2 per 100,000 across England) and the gap has grown in each comparison period since (11.8 people per 100,000 in Brighton & Hove in 2021-23, 5.5 per 100,000 across England).

⁶⁴ Deaths from [drug misuse statistics provided by NHS Fingertips](#), Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. Accessed August 2025. © Crown copyright 2025.

- Data from NHS Digital's Primary Care Mortality dataset on Substance Abuse Deaths between 2021 and 2023 recorded 155 registered deaths, of whom 66% were males and 55% were between the ages of 35 and 54. Heroin / morphine was the most commonly implicated drug in each of these years.

Drug litter found by council services

- Data on drug litter can be found in the Anti- Social Behaviour section in **Section 9**.

Exploitation

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT)

- In the city, Sussex Police recorded 27 Modern Slavery crimes in 2024/25, considerably fewer than the 50 recorded in 2023/24 and 52 in 2020/21, but similar to the numbers recorded in other recent years.
- In 2024/25, holding a person in slavery or servitude was the most frequently recorded modern slavery offence (14 crimes), followed by requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour (9 crimes). Arranging or facilitating travel of another person with a view to exploitation had fewer than five offences recorded in this time period. Data on victim age and sex were available for a majority, but not all offences. Victims were predominantly male (18 of 24 offences where victim information was recorded) and in the 10-19 age group (17 out of 24 offences where victim age information was available). Further information regarding the nature of these offences was not sufficiently recorded to analyse.
- Brighton & Hove City Council raised 6 Section 42 safeguarding enquiries in 2024/25 regarding modern slavery, the same as during the previous year and higher than the one in 2022/23 and 4 in 2021/22. The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board⁶⁵ noted an increasing trend in reported concerns around care workers within care homes and in the community, even if some instances were not ultimately taken forward as a safeguarding enquiry.
- Neither University Hospitals Sussex Foundation Trust (UH Sussex) or Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT) raised any safeguarding concerns due to modern slavery in 2024/25 – UH Sussex recorded between 1 and 5 such concerns annually between 2020/21 and 2023/24, while SCFT very rarely records any modern slavery-related safeguarding concerns.

National Referral Mechanism statistics on potential victims of trafficking

- In 2024/25 there were 624 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) across Sussex where Sussex Police received the referral for investigation, slightly lower than in the previous year. Referral numbers reached a long-term high of 864 in 2022/23 following a rapid increase in overall referrals from 2019/20.
- There were 72 referrals in 2024/25 to the NRM where Sussex Police were the first responder to a suspected instance of modern slavery, fewer than the 101 referrals in the previous year but similar in number to 2021/22 and 2022/23.

⁶⁵ [Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board 2024-25 Annual Report, PDF.](#)

Children and young people

- In 2024/25 there were an average of around 12 children going missing from social care each quarter, significantly greater than the average of 3 per quarter the previous year, but smaller than in the previous three years where between 20 and 30 children were going missing each quarter. Conversely, an average of 13 children were recorded as missing from placements each quarter in 2024/25, significantly higher than the average of 5 per quarter in 2023/24 and one per quarter in 2022/23.
- An average of 65 children were recorded by social care as going missing each quarter, slightly more than the average of 55 per quarter recorded in 2023/24 but similar to the long-term average in the city.
- As at the end of March 2025, there were 27 children who were open to social care identified as being at risk or involved in criminal exploitation - having decreased steadily from 43 children at the same time in 2023 - but higher than the 16 children identified as being at such a risk by the end of March 2023.
- At the end of March 2025 there were also 5 children recorded as identified at risk or being involved in sexual exploitation, significantly fewer than the 26 children open to social care for this reason at the same time in 2024 and 16 by the end of March 2023. Four additional children were identified as being at risk of both criminal and sexual exploitation in March 2025, similar to numbers in previous years.
- In 2024/25, Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meetings (AVRM) identified an average of 20 young people per meeting with a red rating - meaning information existed to suggest imminent risk of exploitation – slightly higher than the average of 17 identified per quarter in 2023/24. During 2024/25, the quarterly number of red-rated at-risk young people decreased steadily from 29 in 2024/25 Q1 to 14 in the Q4 meeting that year.

Nature of the problem

Violence with injury

- Offences occurring in a dwelling or in a public/ open space made up the majority of police recorded violence with injury offences in 2024/25 – with 39% respectively occurring in both location types. A further 10% occurred in a hospitality venue, 4% occurred in a shop, 3% in a medical setting, and 2% in an education setting. The remaining offences occurred in commercial or financial buildings, leisure spaces, public buildings or on public transport.
- In 2024/25, one in four (25%) police recorded injury violence offences had a flag for domestic abuse.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those **violence with injury offences occurring outside the home** in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was

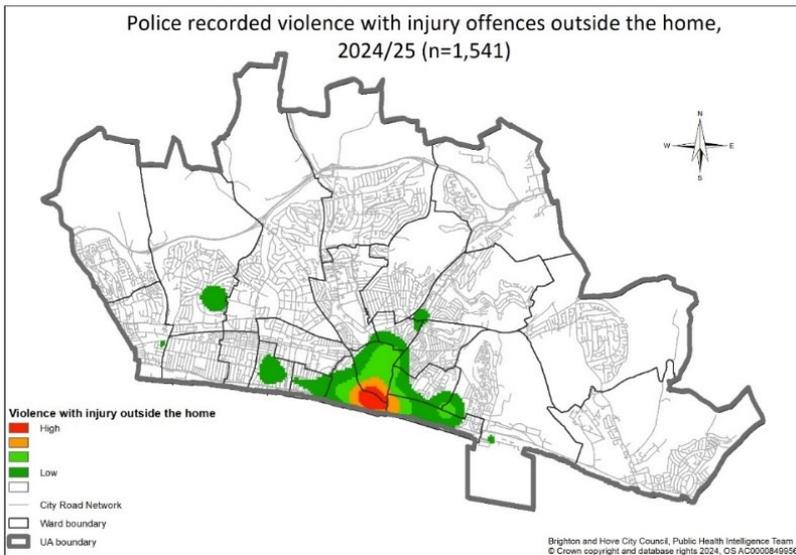
recorded), 67% of victims were male, 32% were female, 0.5% were transgender, and less than 0.5% had a victim sex or gender identity recorded as 'other' or 'indeterminate'⁶⁶.

- For female victims of violence with injury offences occurring outside the home, the peak rate of victimisation occurs in the 10-19 age group (5.8 per 1,000 population) and decreases in subsequent age groups. For male victims, there was an older peak in victimisation rates, with those in the 20-29 age group most likely to be victimised (9.8 per 1,000 population) and rates remaining high in the 30-39 age group (9.5 per 1,000 population)⁶⁷.
- Over half (53%) of victims of violence with injury offences which had occurred outside the home did not have ethnicity recorded, meaning analysis of victim ethnicity is not possible.
- Of those victims of violence with injury offences occurring outside the home, 66% were recorded as residents of Brighton & Hove, 30% were residents outside of the city, and 5% had no fixed address.
- Sussex Police currently record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those violence with injury offences which occurred outside the home in 2024/25 with known offender information recorded, 74% of offenders were male, 25% were female, and 1% were transgender⁶⁶. The offending rate was highest amongst the 10-19 age group, followed by the 30-39 age group, although caution should be used as overall numbers were low.
- Over two thirds (69%) of violence with injury offences in 2024/25 which occurred outside of the home were committed by someone who was a stranger to the victim, and a further 21% were committed by an acquaintance; 2% respectively were committed by a spouse or partner, ex-partner or an intimate, 1% were committed by a family member and less than 1% respectively were committed by a parent/ guardian or child.
- The hotspot for violence with injury offences occurring outside of the home, as shown in **Figure 33**, is located in the city centre in an area bounded by Church Street to the North, Old Steine to the East, Churchill Square to the West, and the seafront to the South. Locations are often closely linked to the night-time economy, with clusters of offences in areas with a high number of licensed premises. An elevated number of offences extend both east and west of the city centre, as well as northwards following main arterial routes. There is also a smaller cluster of offences to the east of the city centre recorded at Royal Sussex County Hospital.

⁶⁶ Sussex Police record victim and offender sex and gender identity in a single combined field, with the categories: Male, Female, Transgender Male, Non-binary, Transgender Female, Other, Indeterminate, Not Recorded, and Restricted. This means the figures may reflect how a person identifies rather than the sex they were assigned at birth. It is not possible to determine, from this dataset, whether those recorded as male or female include individuals who are transgender, or whether all those recorded as transgender have been classified according to gender identity or recorded sex. As a result, these figures should be interpreted with an understanding that they may not align with definitions of sex used in other contexts.

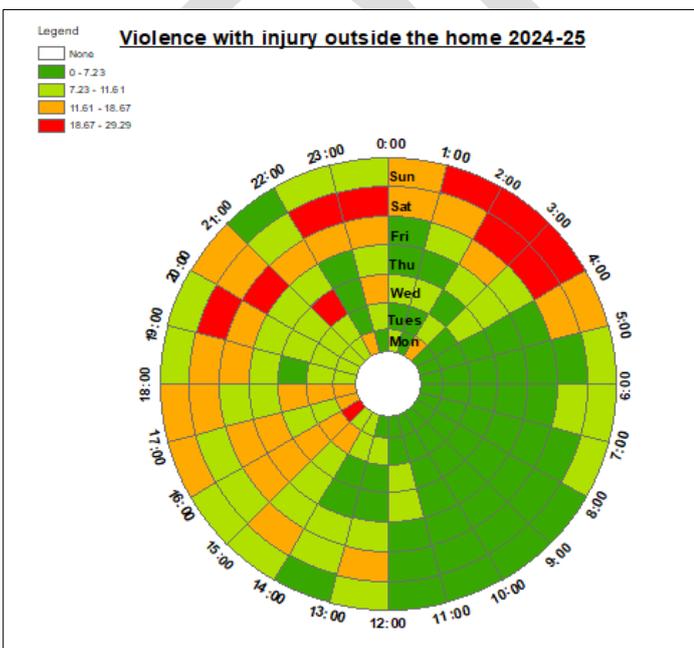
⁶⁷ Analysis counts victims rather than offences and will not include those who have been a repeat victim of this crime type within this 12 month period.

Figure 33 – Hotspot of police recorded violence with injury crimes having taken place outside the home in 2024/25.



- The temporal pattern of violence with injury offences which have occurred outside of a dwelling also demonstrates a link to the night-time economy, as shown in **Figure 34**, with elevated numbers of offences occurring on both Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night/ Saturday morning shows a peak in offences between 20.00hrs and 21:00hrs and again between 02.00hrs and 04.00hrs on a Saturday morning. Saturday night/ Sunday morning shows several peaks in offences occurring between 19.00hrs and 04.00hrs, with elevated numbers of offences throughout this time.
- The data clock also shows an elevated number of offences occurring on weekdays between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs, coinciding with the end of the school day, with a particularly high number of offences occurring on a Monday.

Figure 34 – Data clock of violence with injury crimes having taken place outside the home in 2024/25.



A&E assault data

- For A&E attendances due to assault in 2024/25, the location of where the incident took place was recorded in 62% of cases; where recorded, the greatest proportion took place on the street (42%) followed by at home (17%); similar proportions took place in or around licensed premises and in recreational areas (both 11%).
- In 2024/25, males made up 73% of A&E assault-related attendances (865 of 1,193) and females 27%. A greater proportion of assaults on males occurred on the street (48%, compared with 23% for females). Meanwhile, 31% of assaults on women occurred at home compared with 13% of assaults on males.
- For both male and female patients attending A&E due to assault in 2024/25, those aged between 20 and 25 years were the most represented five-year age group; for both males and females there were significant numbers of patients aged 15 to 19, peaking in the 20 to 25 age group then decreasing gradually. There were proportionally more attendances among females aged between 20 and 35 than for males in the same age range, while proportionally more males aged between 40 and 55 presented at A&E due to assault in 2024/25 than females in the same age group.
- The proportion of A&E assault patients in 2024/25 whose ethnicity was recorded as being not White British was around 36%. No further breakdown of ethnicity was available.
- In 2024/25, 64% of assault patients where a home postcode was available⁶⁸ lived in Brighton & Hove (BN2 32%; BN1 15%; BN3 and BN41 17%), which has remained consistent in the last three years.
- In 2024/25, the greatest proportion of attendances occurred between 10pm and 4am, making up 44% of attendances where time was recorded.

Nature of assault presenting at A&E

- A&E attendance data – where intent was mentioned in notes – showed that showed 70% of assault-related attendances involved a single assailant, 17% involved multiple assailants and the remainder assigned as non-intentional injury (11%), self-inflicted injury (1%) or undetermined (1%).

⁶⁸ There was no postcode provided for 3% of patients, which may be because they were of no fixed address, lived overseas, or it was unavailable for another reason.

Figure 35 - Accident and Emergency Attendances at hospitals in Brighton & Hove due to assault, by mechanism of injury, 2021/22 to 2024/25.

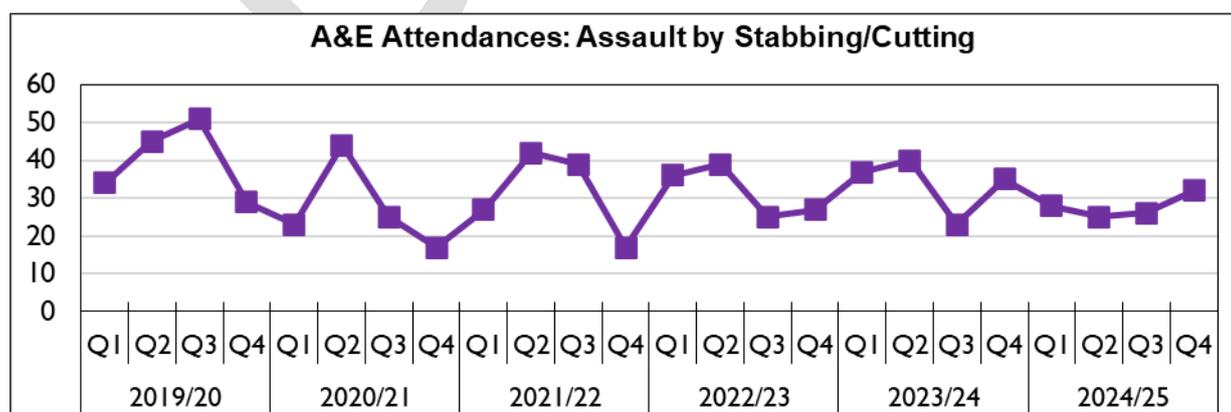
Mechanism	2024/25	2024/25 %	2023/24	2023/24 %	2022/23	2022/23 %
Blow from blunt object	67	9%	70	9%	68	8%
Blunt force / pushed	141	19%	146	19%	159	19%
Kicked with foot	41	6%	32	4%	62	7%
Punched with fist	282	38%	266	35%	309	36%
Stabbed	111	15%	135	18%	128	15%
Other	97	13%	101	13%	120	14%
Refused to disclose	2	0%	9	1%	12	1%
Blank	452	0	455	0	469	0
Grand total	1193		1214		1327	

- In 2024/25, 38% of assault patients were punched, 19% were pushed, 15% were stabbed and 9% had been hit by a blunt object. These proportions remain similar to those in previous years, as shown in **Figure 35**.
- When examining mechanisms of injury assault in 2024/25, a greater proportion of males attend A&E due to assault by being punched (41%) than females (28%) and due to stabbing (15% of males compared with 10% of females). In contrast, a greater proportion of females attended A&E due to assault by pushing or blunt force (28%) compared with males (17%).

A&E attendances due to stabbing

- There were 111 attendances at Accident and Emergency due to stabbing in 2024/25, somewhat lower than the 135 recorded the previous year and the lowest since the 109 recorded in 2020/21. A seasonal trend is clear, with increases in attendances during the spring and summer months, though this was seen to a smaller extent in 2024/25 than previous years. Figures for the last three years can be seen in **Figure 36**.

Figure 36 - Accident and Emergency Attendances: Assault by Stabbing / Cutting, by quarter, 2019/20 to 2024/25.



- Among the 111 A&E patients assaulted by stabbing in 2024/25:
 - 40% were aged 18 to 29; 24% were aged between 30 and 39, 14% aged between 40 and 49 and 11% aged under 18.
 - 90% of patients were male and 9% were female; this has remained consistent over the last three years.
 - 45% were recorded as having been stabbed in the street, 18 while in their (or someone else's) home, and 11% while in or outside a licensed premises.

Robberies

- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of victims of police recorded personal robbery offences in 2024/25, 83% were male, 15% were female, 1% were recorded as 'indeterminate', and less than 1% as 'other'⁶⁶.
- The rate of victimisation for personal robbery offences was highest amongst the 10-19 age group (2.6 per 1,000 pop), and over twice the rate seen in any subsequent age group. 32% of victims of personal robbery offences were age 10-19 years. The average age of victims in the 10-19 age group was 16.
- The hotspot for personal robbery offences in 2024-25 is located in the city centre and includes part of North Laine and the Lanes, stretching as far as Preston Street to the West, and part of Kemptown to the East. Western Road, Kings Road Arches, the Royal Pavilion Gardens and St. James's Street are all repeat locations, with clusters of offences in these locations. Outside of the main hotspot area, there is also a cluster of offences occurring at the Level.
- Personal robbery offences in 2024-25 continue to be dispersed across all days of the week, rather than peaking on Friday and Saturday nights and typically associated with the night-time economy. Personal robbery offences are also occurring over a longer timeframe, typically from early evening through to 05.00hrs.
- Of those personal robbery offences where information on the use of a weapon was recorded, 66% did not involve the use of a weapon, 23% involved the use of a bladed or sharp implement, a further 5% involved the threat of a bladed or sharp implement (where this was not seen or verified), 6% involved the use of an 'other' weapon, and less than 1% involved the use of a firearm.

Fear of violence

- The Health Counts Survey in 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.
- One in four respondents (24%) reported that they were very or fairly worried about physical violence against a family member, whilst around one in five (22%) were very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves.
- Those in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about physical violence against themselves compared with respondents as a whole, with 35% of 18-24 year olds reporting they were very or fairly worried. The proportion of respondents who were very or fairly worried generally decreased in subsequent age groups.

- Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller communities had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves, with 61% reporting that they were very or fairly worried about this. Respondents from mixed or multiple ethnic groups as well as respondents who described their ethnicity as 'Other'⁶⁹ were also significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves (32% and 30% respectively).
- Respondents who were female, Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI), LGBTQ+, disabled, unpaid carers, or who have experience of the care system as a child or young person all had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary or emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Drugs

- There were 441 drugs supply / trafficking offences in the city in 2024/25.
- 96% of offenders for drug trafficking offences in 2024/25 were male, and 4% were female⁶⁶. Overall numbers were low, but the offending rate was highest amongst those aged 20-29 years, and over twice the rate seen in the 10-19 age group, which had the next highest offending rate. There was insufficient information recorded in relation to offender ethnicity to analyse this.
- Where the town of the offender was recorded, 38% of offenders for drug trafficking offences in 2024/25 resided in Brighton and Hove, a further 32% resided outside of the city, and 30% had no fixed address.
- The hotspot area for all drugs offences, including trafficking offences, possession offences and other drugs offences in 2024/25 is located in the city centre, in an area bounded by London Road and The Level to the north, the seafront to the south, Preston Street to the west and Lower Rock Gardens to the east. This is a larger hotspot, covering a more dispersed city centre area than seen in previous years analysis.
- In 2024/25 there were 2,092 people in structured drug treatment in Brighton & Hove. Over half (53%) of those in treatment were aged 35 to 54. However, looking at the age breakdown, among younger people there are a higher proportion of females in treatment (aged 18 to 25; 46% females) and this proportion reduced with each age group, until the 45-54 age group. In the 55 and over age groups, 76% of those in drug treatment are males. 70% of those in treatment are White British, and 30% were from Black or Racially Minoritised groups.

Drug use in adults

- The Health Counts survey⁶ in 2024 also asked respondents about drug use. One in five adults had taken drugs not prescribed for them and not available at a chemist or pharmacy in the last 12 months (20%). Another 3% preferred not to say. The question was slightly different in the 2012 Health Counts survey, when 17% of adults had taken these drugs in the last 12 months.
- In the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023, 9.5% of people aged 16-59 years and 18% of people aged 16-24 years had used drugs in the past 12 months. The Health Counts survey was

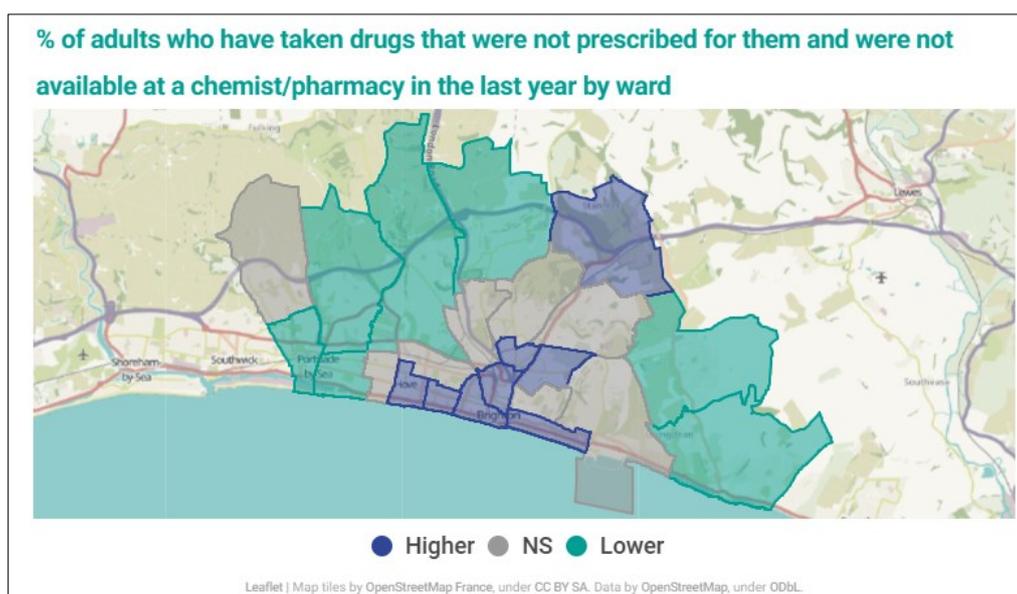
⁶⁹ Ethnic groups included Asian or Asian British; Black, Black British, Caribbean or African; Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups; Arab; Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller; White British; White Irish or other White; or Other ethnic group.

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for adults aged 18 years or over, so the age bands are slightly different, but 35% (1 in 3) 18 to 24-year-olds in the city had used drugs in the last year, almost double the England and Wales survey figure.

- The most commonly used drugs were cannabis (66% of those who have used drugs in the last 12 months or 13% of all adults), followed by cocaine (35% of those who have used drugs in the last 12 months or 7% of all adults), and other non-opiates for example ecstasy or spice (21% of those who have used drugs in the last 12 months or 4% of all adults). It should be noted, that estimates for some types of drugs, like heroin and crack cocaine are very low, and likely to be underestimates of the prevalence in the city.
- People in the following groups/areas of the city are more likely, compared to Brighton & Hove as a whole, to have used drugs that were not prescribed for them and were not available at a chemist/pharmacy in the last year (Brighton & Hove 20%):
 - Those living in the 20-40% most deprived areas: 25% of those in the second most deprived 20% of areas, compared to 14% of those in the least deprived 20% of areas.
 - Those aged 18-24, 25-34 and 35-44 years (35%, 29% and 24% respectively).
 - Adults from Mixed/multiple ethnic groups (25%), Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller adults (38%).
 - Males (24%).
 - Trans, non-binary or intersex adults (TNBI) (42%).
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or other non-heterosexual orientation (LGBQ+) adults (33%).
 - Disabled adults (24%).
 - Autistic adults (36%), neurodivergent adults (excluding Autistic adults without a learning difference) (38%), adults with a developmental condition (39%), mental health difference / condition (33%), visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (32%).
 - Those living in temporary or emergency accommodation (35%).
 - Those with experience of the care system as a child/young person (29%).
 - Areas from Central Hove to Kemptown, West Hill and North Laine, Round Hill and Hanover and Elm Grove, and Coldean and Stanmer (see Figure 37)⁶.

Figure 37 – map showing the percentage of adults having reported taken drugs not prescribed for them (and not available at a pharmacy) in the Health Counts Survey 2024.



Drug use in children and young people

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS), conducted in November and December 2023, asked students aged 11-18 whether if and how often they took any non-prescription drugs.
- The 2023 version of this survey showed 12.6% of all respondents aged 11 to 16 in secondary school said they had taken non-prescribed drugs. Certain demographic groups were identified as statistically significantly more likely to have reported having ever taken non-prescribed drugs:
 - Students who do not identify, or did not always identify, with the gender they were assigned at birth (16.6%).
 - Young carers (22.3%).
 - Students who identify as being from the LGB+ community (14.9%).
 - Students who were adopted (30.9%).
- The proportion of students aged 11 to 16 who had reported having taken non-prescription drugs was the highest in 2023 than in any of the four previous surveys, where 10% to 12.5% of students had reported doing so. All year groups except for Year 11 (aged 15 to 16, where the greatest proportion of secondary school students report having taken drugs but also shows the greatest year-on-year variability) saw substantial increases in the 2023 survey compared to the previous survey in 2021.

Resources and gaps

Resources available

- There are a range of statutory services in the city supporting efforts to reduce serious violence, drug and alcohol misuse and supply and the risks of exploitation. These include Sussex Police, Probation services, Court services, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Office. The NHS provides support through its Social Work teams and Assessment and

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Treatment Services. Brighton and Hove City Council also house or co-host a range of services and meetings supporting vulnerable or potentially vulnerable people:

- Housing Team.
- Children and Family Services, including Adolescent Services and its Youth Justice Team.
- Adult Social Care.
- the Brighton & Hove Joint Action Group (JAG).
- the Early Intervention Youth ASB Meeting, identifying children and young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and discussing methods of effective intervention and diversion.
- the Brighton & Hove Partnership Tactical Tasking & Coordination Group (PTTCG).
- Alongside these are services utilising a mixture of public sector and voluntary sector funding, including the Reboot early intervention youth programme – which operates in the city across Sussex with financial support from budget from Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund for children aged 10 to 17 – as well as drug and alcohol treatment services offered by Change Grow Live (CGL). The RU-OK service also provides drug and alcohol treatment for under-18s in the city.
- The city is also host to a wide range of community assets supporting vulnerable people, offering early intervention and education and supporting victims and survivors. The city has a network of Local Action Teams, which bring together local residents, businesses and community groups to address local issues. The Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership is a spoke of the wider Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership, coordinated by Sussex Police and Brighton & Hove City Council. This partnership provides funding towards interventions in the city such as dispersed youthwork and Hospital Youth Worker Projects via Trust for Developing Communities (TDC), as well as the WBC Cares Brighton and Hove Boxing Gym programme.
- Other important community assets supporting work in this area include, but are not limited to:
 - Cranstoun – domestic violence & abuse service.
 - Survivors Network.
 - St Mungo's Street Outreach Service.
 - RISE.
 - Fresh Youth Perspectives.
 - AudioActive.
 - Brighton Voices In Exile.

Gaps in resource

- There is a perceived under-resourcing of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) structures at the partnership level, including police representation.
- The partnership lacks a systemic approach to addressing risks of sex-work and chemsex, particularly among young people.

- The paucity of after-school services and activities, particularly in central areas of the city, increases contextual safeguarding risks for children and young people out in the community.
- The partnership could develop broader community asset involvement in its approach to contextual safeguarding, particularly following a serious incident.
- There is a lack of access to intensive mentoring for children and young people at highest risk of harm due to involvement with criminal exploitation and associated serious violence.
- Access to supported housing for children and young people involved in drugs and serious violence remains challenging in the city. Adolescent Services report delays in sourcing appropriate accommodation for those with high needs, with some left in overcrowded situations or sofa-surfing (sometimes in inappropriate settings) which is driver of further risks to their offending and involvement with drug supply and violence.
- Crime and offending does not respect cross jurisdictional local authority or county boundaries. There is scope for greater coordination and cooperation both pan-Sussex and regionally, to ensure that those involved in or at risk of criminal exploitation are safeguarded.

Gaps in knowledge

- Modern Slavery Act reporting for adult potential victims remains low across the city for all 'first responder agencies'.
- There is a lack of knowledge and data of both the prevalence of and motivations for knife carrying in the city. A local risk profile of weapons carrying and usage would allow us to better challenge narratives in the community.
- Data for 'cuckooing' remains limited.
- Sexual exploitation is likely to be underreported for all age groups.
- Community assets report inconsistent awareness of missing children and unclear what formal processes there are around this.

Summary of key issues

- A lack of resources affecting local authority and partner agencies continues to impact the scope and effectiveness of partnership work.
- Violence with injury and serious violence offences have risen slightly year-on-year but remain less prevalent than their pre-pandemic peaks. Violence offences continue to be more frequent during periods of warmer weather with central areas in the night-time economy (NTE) as a particular risk factor.
- For violent offences that occurred outside of the home, men were 2:1 more likely than women to be victims, with men aged 20-29 and women aged 10-19 the most likely to experience violence. Perpetrators were significantly more likely to be strangers than known to the victim.
- Weapon possession offences rose in 2024/25 and are higher than the pre-pandemic peak, but this may be attributable in part to changes to the identification and policing of hot-spot areas, leading to better detection and confiscation of knives and other weapons.

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- Hospital attendances for assault have steadily decreased over the lifetime of the 2023-26 strategy, and weapon-enabled injuries have effectively remained static as a proportion of assaults (approx. 24% sharp or blunt weapon enabled injuries / 65% punch, kick, pushing injuries).
- Patients who attended following an assault whose ethnicity was not recorded as White British were over-represented in comparison to ethnicity data for Brighton & Hove in the 2021 census. 36% of the overall assault attendances gave an address that was outside of the city.
- Drug trafficking and supply offences and drug possession offences are higher than pre-pandemic peaks. Trafficking and supply offenders are overwhelmingly likely to be male, with those aged 20-29 most prevalent, followed by those aged 10-19. Around a third of all offenders were not resident in the city.
- Drug use within the city remains more prevalent than national averages, especially for young people who use drugs are nearly double that seen nationally. Those living within more deprived areas and those across a breadth of protected characteristics, experience a higher likelihood of using drugs.
- Boys and young men (aged 10-19) are most likely to be identified as the victim of Modern Slavery offences. These are primarily local boys who have experienced criminal exploitation, having been coerced to deal drugs, commit drug related violence or steal to order.
- Those with multiple complex needs are more vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.
- Brighton & Hove has a comparatively high level of homelessness and rough sleeping. Those seeking to exploit vulnerable people are known to have preyed upon members of the local street community with offers of work, accommodation and sometimes access to alcohol, which can later lead to situations of labour exploitation.
- The city's care sector is vulnerable to labour exploitation, particularly care workers from abroad on Skilled Worker Visas, whose right to work in the UK is dependent on sponsorship by their employer.
- Total robberies in 2024/25 were lower than the previous year and significantly lower than the long-term peak prior to the pandemic. This figure is likely to rise in subsequent years due to Home Office changes to the way in which some shoplifting offences are counted by police forces. Roughly a third of all robberies (both against the person and business robberies) are enabled by either the use or threat of a weapon.
- The data clock for violence with injury offences shows a trend of increased violence in the hours after school on weekdays, compared to the previous CSP Strategic Assessment. This indicates an increasing risk of violence to and from children and young people during these periods.

Recommendations for partnership work

- Use of Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (PTTCG) and Joint Action Group (JAG) to identify areas of concern and task responses ensuring that relevant partners are participating in identifying issues and delivering solutions.
- The partnership will continue its multiagency approach to addressing risks and vulnerabilities associated with cuckooing.

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- Effective partnership working to improve and increase the use of ASB tools and powers to disrupt perpetrators of exploitation and cuckooing.
- Maintain a preventative approach to serious violence and knife-carrying through a multiagency response, overseen by the Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership. Community and third-sector groups, such as those funded by the VRP, to play a key role in developing and delivering interventions.
- Effective partnership work between Police, Licensing, and local business community assets to addressing ongoing risks of violence (including violence against women and girls) within the night-time economy.
- Continue to develop a contextual approach to safeguarding across internal and third sector partners, to ensure people involved or affected by local crime groups are supported; and vulnerable people prevented from becoming involved in violence and criminal exploitation.
- Partnership data developed, analysed and shared via the Violence Reduction Partnership to inform needs assessments and problem profiles. Use data to further identify and form responses to inequalities.
- Use data and experiences of key partners to improve understanding of areas and cohorts at highest risk of perpetrating or becoming victims of violence and use this to influence service delivery and deployment of existing resources.
- Continue to develop Transitional Safeguarding arrangements and further embed systemic understanding and partnership approach to addressing Multiple and Compound Need.
- The Community Safety Partnership Board members to effectively contribute to the Combating Drugs Partnership to support the objective of breaking drug supply chains and reducing drug harm within the city; understanding and addressing inequalities in drug use across vulnerable demographics.
- Improve capacity across the partnership to identify and support victims of all forms of exploitation and encourage more consistent reporting under the Modern Slavery Act.
- Address the fear of violent crime in the city by being candid about the challenges, amplifying interventions, promoting successes and encouraging further community involvement in developing and delivering responses. Continue to improve partnership communications with residents to improve trust and confidence in reporting and subsequent responses.
- Develop cross-county coordination and information sharing with regional counterparts and relevant partner services.
- Expand the partnership focus on online harms - including the exposure of young people to violent content, and the role of social media in escalating conflict. Strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with the educational sector, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

8. Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls

Introduction

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) includes a range of crimes that include domestic abuse and sexual violence and so-called 'honour-based' abuse, which disproportionately impact women and girls^{70,71}. The impacts are profound and long-lasting, causing severe physical and psychological trauma, and in the most extreme cases, death. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated 1.6 million women aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the last year, a prevalence rate of approximately 6.6% of women.

The CSEW shows that women, those in younger age groups, and people who are disabled are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year⁷². While violence against women and girls affects all demographics, evidence shows prevalence is higher among females including groups experiencing intersecting inequalities such as disability, limited education, decision-making power, mental health challenges or those living in poverty⁷³.

Digital media has emerged as a significant risk factor and introduces the threat of technology-facilitated crimes, such as intimate image abuse, exacerbated by the rise of generative AI⁷⁴. The widespread availability of violent adult content online, including content depicting acts such as strangulation, perpetuates harmful behaviours and normalises violence against women^{75,76}.

Protective factors are less documented but centre on robust support systems which seek to minimise risk. The implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, particularly the duty to provide support in safe accommodation, aims to create protective infrastructure for victims⁷⁷.

Risk factors for VAWG include a history of prior abuse experienced by both victims and perpetrators, coercive and controlling behaviour by perpetrators, and escalation in the frequency or severity of incidents. The national review into child sexual abuse within the family environment emphasises that child victims are often exposed to a cluster of these risk factors⁷⁸. A strategic approach that prioritises prevention, focuses on addressing perpetrator behaviour and builds an

⁷⁰ [ONS webpage, Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2024.](#)

⁷¹ [Home Office webpage - statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

⁷² [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics.](#)

⁷³ [Brito Jiménez IT, Rodríguez Ávila N. Factors associated with domestic violence in women: systematic ecological review. Revista Cuidarte. 2025;16\(1\):e3857.](#)

⁷⁴ [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office webpage - Report: Digital violence, real world harm: evaluating survivor-centric tools for intimate image abuse in the age of generative AI.](#)

⁷⁵ [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology webpage - Independent Report: Bertin B. Creating a safer world: the challenge of regulating online pornography.](#)

⁷⁶ [MOJ webpage - press release: Strangulation in pornography to be made illegal, June 2025.](#)

⁷⁷ [MHCLG webpage - Research Report: Domestic Abuse Duty for Support in Safe Accommodation: Evaluation, July 2025.](#)

⁷⁸ [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel webpage - National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment, November 2024.](#)

accountable community response is vital in addressing violence against women and girls and preventing harm.

National and local context

Violence Against Women and Girls was officially categorised as a national threat in February 2023 by the then Home Secretary. This status remains current and brought the threat from VAWG to society on par with terrorism.

In 2024, the incoming government committed to halving VAWG within a decade. The publication of a new national strategy is expected in the autumn of 2025. Early indications suggest there will be a focus on early prevention and a strengthened approach to tackling perpetrators. This ambition is underscored by the raft of legislation that has been passed in recent years including the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Online Safety Act 2023, the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, and the forthcoming introduction of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, as well as funding for national support helplines.

Brighton and Hove City (BHCC) recognise that VAWG is a widespread and escalating problem for the city with significant impacts on individuals and our communities. Due to the cross-cutting nature of VAWG and with its links to anti-social behaviour, health inequality, substance use, chronic deprivation, economic disadvantage, education attainment, homicide and suicide, we acknowledge that we must continue to work alongside our communities, statutory and voluntary sector partners to decrease the harm caused by VAWG. Going forward we will engage directly with our communities via the Family Hubs and revision of Health provision aligned to HM Government's 10 Year Plan for Health and alignment with the Council's strategic intentions.

In January 2025, the Cabinet agreed our Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028. The strategy incorporates a "One Council" approach to ensure that all council services play their part to contribute to the overall response to preventing and tackling VAWG. The strategy has four priorities, these are: strengthening the coordinated response to VAWG, prioritising prevention, supporting survivors and building an accountable community by changing perpetrator behaviour. The governance and implementation of the strategy is coordinated by the multi-agency VAWG Oversight Board and four thematic subgroups delivering on the four priorities. We continue to work with our partners in the community, statutory and voluntary sector to collectively reduce the harm caused by VAWG.

Local crime data for Brighton and Hove reveals a stark picture with high levels of domestic abuse. This is also reflected in the prevalence of sexual violence, with a significant proportion of those assaults linked to the nighttime economy. To tackle this trend, the forthcoming Licensing Policy has put in specific measures to curtail and disrupt VAWG. Sussex Police continue to deliver Operation Shield.

The introduction of Operation Soteria nationally has seen a significant improvement in the Police response to sexual violence, and this is evident with the improvement on criminal justice outcomes. Sussex Police have a relatively high number of Stalking Protection Orders achieved which reflects well compared with the national average. However, there is still more to do to reduce the harm from all forms of VAWG, particularly in relation to serial perpetrators of such assaults.

It is also important to acknowledge that some forms of VAWG are less likely to be reported. This includes all forms of Harmful Practices, child to parent abuse, economic abuse, elder abuse and

sexual exploitation. To address this challenge, the Council's VAWG Unit has aligned its work on VAWG with the Anti Racism Strategy, Rough sleeper Strategy, Alcohol Strategy and Safeguarding Adults Board. This approach has seen improved levels of "help seeking action" from racially minoritised communities now reflected in our data. In addition, through extending our work at a grassroots level in the community in partnership with Bramber Bakehouse, the International Women's Network and the BME Capacity Building Programme delivered by Stonewater, we have been able to ensure information about "rights and support" is directly available to those who may require support.

We have also commissioned support for young people using abuse in their behaviours via the Cranston Level Up Programme and worked tirelessly with the Adult Safeguarding Board to deliver training and improved policies and procedures. This system change has seen domestic abuse enter into the top five reasons for referral to Adult Social Care, highlighting an improved recognition of elder abuse and multiple compound needs. We continue to scope our response to sexual exploitation and Technologically Enabled Abuse, and work with our partners to incorporate the learning from national best practice.

BHCC continues to deliver on its statutory duty under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews, now termed Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRS), as enacted in the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024. This change highlighted that the previous term "homicide" did not fully encompass the scope of reviews, which extends to death by suicide. This change has seen a significant increase in the level of reviews nationally and this trend is reflected in Brighton & Hove. Suicide is the leading cause of death in domestic abuse cases in England and Wales⁷⁹.

Clearly the work we do to prevent VAWG is aligned with suicide prevention. In collaboration with our MARAC practitioners, we are working to utilise the MARAC pathway to decrease the risk for survivors with suicidal ideation. This work is in its scoping stage but will be developed and delivered with the MARAC practitioners and overseen by the MARAC Steering Group. In addition, Public Health have commissioned awareness training for domestic and sexual abuse practitioners working in the city. Brighton Women's Centre, RISE and Victim Support are currently participating in a University of Sussex led multi-site evaluation on mindfulness for survivors with post-traumatic stress.

There has been ongoing continuous improvement of the weekly Brighton and Hove MARAC for those at the highest risk which reflects our work to embed national standards and adhere to the Safelives¹⁰ Principles of an Effective MARAC⁸⁰. This has resulted in a significant reduction in repeat cases; however, the Brighton and Hove MARAC has continued to receive high levels of referrals showing we need to continue to uphold our response to those identified as high risk whilst developing a robust approach to prevention. A national review of MARAC is underway and when completed the MARAC Steering Group will incorporate these recommendations into our local MARAC Operating Protocol when published.

In preparation for the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the council commissioned Stonewater, the current refuge provider, to conduct research into support for survivors. The findings and

⁷⁹ [Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme \(VKPP\) Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicide 2020-2024 Year 4 Report, Hoeger et al, 2024 - PDF.](#)

⁸⁰ [Safelives report. 10 Principles of an Effective MARAC - PDF.](#)

recommendations are contained within the Safehaven by the Sea Report⁸¹. This report notes the work the council has undertaken to deliver its new statutory duty, under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act⁸² to provide support in safe accommodation for survivors and their children. The duty was accompanied by additional funding which enabled the council to develop an Enhanced Housing Pathway. During 2024/25, some 594 survivors were supported via the pathway. There has been a notable increase in the number of survivors from BME and from LGBTQ+ communities, as well as evidence of communities seeking support at an earlier stage of harm through this pathway.

Brighton & Hove City Council continues to support the work of regional work to combat domestic abuse and sexual violence via a Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. The refresh of its Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy has now completed⁸³. Its subgroup structure aligns with pan Sussex workstreams including the High Harm Perpetrator Programme, Stalking Clinic and Victims of Lived Experience Board. Funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased provision of services locally, including the Pan Sussex Multi Crime Service and the RISE Young persons domestic abuse worker.

Overview of scale and trends

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Police recorded crimes and incidents

- In 2024/25 there were 3,068 domestic violence crimes recorded in the city, 4.3% lower than in the previous year. This continued a general downward trend in recorded crimes since 2019/20, as seen in **Figure 38**, having risen towards a long-term high in that year. Separately, 1,967 domestic violence incidents were recorded in 2024/25, 2.2% higher than in 2023/24 but still part of a long-term decrease in the number of recorded incidents in the last ten years.
- Long-term trends in domestic violence crimes and incidents should continue to be placed in context with the changes made to recording practices by Sussex Police. In June 2023 changes were made to the way in which domestic abuse crimes and incidents were recorded by police nationwide. This is likely to have contributed to fewer crimes being recorded by the police, where multiple offences were previously recorded⁸⁴. Interpreting changes in police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents must also recognise that domestic violence remains profoundly under-reported by victims to police.

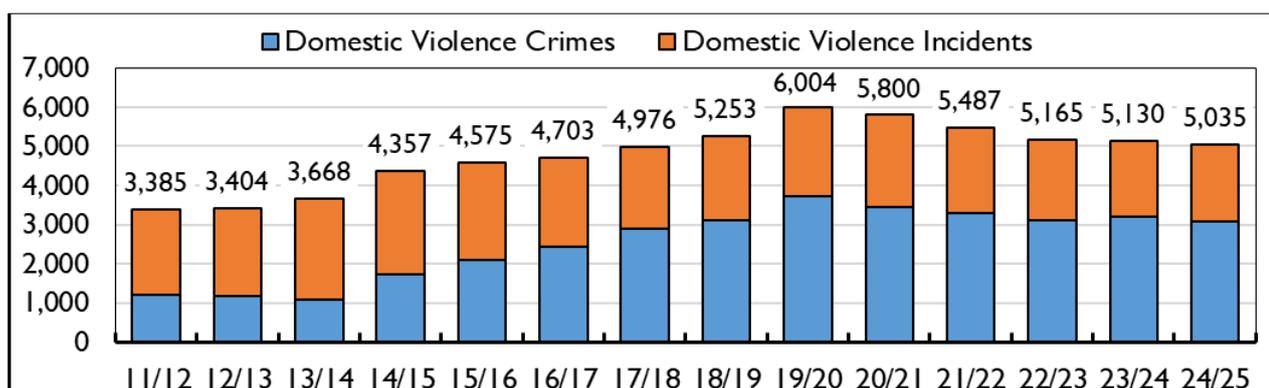
⁸¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage - Strategy and Action Plan - Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, 2025 to 2028.](#)

⁸² [Gov.uk Legislation webpage - Domestic Abuse Act 2021.](#)

⁸³ [Sussex Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board document, Word. Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 Accessible Format.](#)

⁸⁴ [Domestic Abuse Commissioner - Report about Home Office Counting Rules, April 2024 - PDF.](#)

Figure 38 - Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents, 2011/12 to 2024/25.



- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) annually asks respondents about experiences of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. It estimated that 9.1% of women and 6.5% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of domestic abuse during the year ending March 2025⁸⁵. Using mid-2024 population estimates, in Brighton & Hove this would equate to 11,425 women and 7,668 men in the city who had experienced domestic abuse in the last year, and 37,162 women and 25,718 men having been a victim of domestic abuse at least once since the age of 16.

Protection Orders and Right to Ask / Right to Know applications

Domestic Violence Protection Orders

- In 2024/25 there were 62 applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) in the city's courts in 2024/25, of which 60 were granted; this was lower than the 72 granted applications made the previous year, but consistent with the number of orders granted in the years immediately before and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of DVPOs breached followed a similar trend.

Right to Ask / Right to Know applications

- Right to Know applications – those made by Police to the courts seeking to disclose information to individuals about concerns over risk of domestic abuse – increased markedly in 2024/25, with 142 applications made and 96 disclosures granted, more than three times the 43 applications and 30 disclosures the year before. This was shaped by a prominent increase in the last quarter of 2024/25, continuing a general increase in applications since late-2023.
- Right to Ask applications – those made to Courts by prospective partners or third parties – also increased substantially with 301 applications and 145 disclosures in 2024/25, each the highest since recording began.

Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding referrals from health agencies⁸⁶

- University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust recorded 24 safeguarding concerns in 2024/25 related to domestic abuse for people attending its hospitals who are residents of

⁸⁵ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2025.](#)

⁸⁶ [Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 24-25, PDF.](#)

Brighton & Hove. This was higher than the 17 in 2023/24, but significantly lower than in 2021/22 (41) and 2020/21 (67 recorded). From the 24 concerns raised, 16 recorded psychological abuse as a factor while neglect and physical abuse were mentioned in 8 instances.

- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT), which provides adult mental health services, recorded 34 domestic abuse-related adult safeguarding concerns in the city, fewer than the 45 in 2023/24 but higher than the 24 recorded in 2022/23.

Safeguarding enquiries opened by Adult Social Care

- In 2024/25 there were 138 concluded Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries by Brighton & Hove City Council⁸⁶ where the risk of domestic abuse was mentioned, a continued increase following 129 recorded in 2023/24 and 112 in 2022/23.

Experiences of Children and Young People

Children in Need

- In 2024/25, there were 141 Children in Need assessments in which domestic abuse concerns against the child were recorded as a factor, making up 6.9% of the 2,039 total assessments completed. This was higher than the 131 in 2023/24 (6.6% of all assessments) and 120 in 2022/23 (4.8% of assessments). The proportion of all assessments in which domestic abuse against a child was a concern was also lower than across England in 2024/25 (11.3% of assessments) and compared with its statistical neighbours (13.6% of assessments). In contrast, there were 734 assessments (36% of all assessments) where a parent being a victim of domestic abuse was recorded as a concern, also higher than in 2022/23 (32.7%) and 2023/24 (35%), higher than its statistical neighbours (27.1%) and England (31.7% of assessments).

Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS)

- Data from the Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS), carried out with pupils aged 7 to 18 across the city in November / December 2023⁸⁷, highlighted that 40% of Key Stage 3 students (aged 11-14) had experienced at least one problematic behaviour in their relationship(s), increasing to 45% of students in Key Stage 4 (aged 15-16)⁸⁸.
- Students more likely than average⁸⁹ to report having experienced at least one problematic relationship behaviour were those who need extra help in school (53%), young carers (55%), students who do not ever or always identify with their gender assigned at birth (50%), students who are currently or previously been in care or living with Kinship Carers (57%), students who are LGB+, and those who are in the most financial hardship (48% respectively).
- There was no significant difference between boys and girls being more likely to report experiencing at least one problematic relationship behaviour. However, boys were more likely to have ever been hit while in a relationship (19%) than girls (14%), while girls were more likely to have ever been humiliated or put down (26%) than boys (18%).

⁸⁷ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) - Safe and Well at Schools Survey.](#)

⁸⁸ Problem behaviours include being yelled at, being put down and/or humiliated, being hit, kicked, pushed or slapped, and being constantly checked up on.

⁸⁹ Statistically significant at the 95% ($p = .05$) level.

Support for victims

Domestic Abuse Specialist Service - Victim Support

- In 2024/25, The Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (DASS) at Victim Support received 1,282 total referrals to the service relating to survivors from Brighton & Hove; 122 survivors were already in support, 629 referrals were accepted into service, and 96 referrals were provided with indirect support. Indirect support included professional advice and consultancy, attendance at multi-disciplinary meetings and MARAC representation to reduce identified risks and increase a survivor's safety. The most common support activities offered by the DASS included giving time for listening and validation of victims' experiences, safety planning, external referrals for other agencies' services and advocacy support for speaking with police and housing authorities. For clients not identified as high-risk, risk assessments are still completed and other services still provided like advice and advocacy, signposting, safety plans and discussion at MARAC and multidisciplinary meetings where appropriate.
- Victim Support's **Children and Young People's Housing Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)** supports young survivors of domestic abuse impacted by housing insecurity through homelessness, tenancy breakdown or insecure accommodation. In 2024/25, this service received referrals for people aged 16 to 25 alongside a small number of referrals for people aged over 25. Across the year, 59% of clients had multiple compound needs affecting their ability to obtain or keep stable accommodation, including but not limited to a history of substance/alcohol misuse, a history of offending and mental ill-health. In each quarter of 2024/25, more than 50% of clients referred to the service had a history of poor mental health, likely reflecting the impact of housing insecurity, economic hardship and surviving domestic abuse on the young people seeking support.
- Victim Support's **Health IDVA**, based at the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH), provides support to survivors of domestic abuse including patients and staff via referrals from health services like GPs, RSCH departments and sexual health services. The service provides signposting and listening services, as well as making referrals to other services, safety planning and advocacy support for contact with social services and police. In 2024/25, this IDVA received 82 referrals and accepted 64 clients seeking support aged over 18 – the most common age groups referred to the service were those aged 35 to 44 (31%) and aged 25 to 34 (18%). This IDVA worked with clients across a range of ethnic backgrounds, including attempting to locate services support survivors with visa issues, immigration concerns or with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). This service highlighted the high proportion of mental health needs being disclosed by clients, while also noting that BME survivors were often presenting to the service after finding no other support elsewhere.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases

- Across 2024/25 there were 732 high-risk domestic violence cases discussed at the weekly MARACs in Brighton & Hove. This was slightly lower than in the previous two years but consistent with the number of cases discussed in most years since 2018/19. Among these, 38.1% were repeat cases, similar to the previous year and lower than the 55% and 50% of cases in 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively. It also sits just inside the range of 28 to 40% of

cases recommended by SafeLives⁹⁰, but higher than the average of 30% of MARAC cases across the UK.

- The number of MARAC cases discussed in the city in the five quarters to the end of 2024/25 (from January 2024 to March 2025) equated to 76 cases per 10,000 adult female population, higher than the UK-wide average of 48 per 10,000 and the expected level of 40 per 10,000.

Specialist support

- **Switchboard** provide a specialist LGBTQ+ Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) who can help housing and accessing refuge services, financial issues and benefits, navigating the criminal justice system, and assisting with mental and physical health needs. In 2024/25, the IDVA service supported 117 new victims of domestic abuse – of which 87 were Brighton & Hove residents - as well as 287 existing victims, across Sussex. Of the 117 new referrals received, 68 were recorded as having disability and 43 were from a BME ethnic background.
- Switchboard also provide support for LGBTQ+ people through its **Polari Programme**, a 12-week recovery program for survivors of domestic abuse part of a trauma-informed 'psychosocial' group. Among the 17 people to have completed the two sets of 12-week sessions during 2024/25, 10 were members of the TNBI community with ages ranging from 18 to 64; 8 participants were aged 25 to 34.
- The Change+ programme⁹¹ run by **Cranstoun** is a behaviour change programme tailored for LGBTQ+ people aged over 18 who have become aware that their relationships have become distressing or damaged by their behaviour. The Change + programme worked with 5 of the 8 people referred to its service in its first 8 months and has a focus on providing wraparound, personalised support.
- **The Network of International Women for Brighton and Hove (NIWBH⁹²)** provides trauma-informed 1 to 1 casework support for vulnerable women in racially minoritised communities. The service shares educational resources around domestic abuse and sexual violence to help improve awareness among racially minoritised women in the city and organisations supporting them. Since 2022, its casework service supported 84 women who were victims of a range of forms of domestic abuse and sexual violence. In 2024/25, referrals from professional services like domestic abuse support organisations and NHS / mental health services increased by more than 100%.
- **NIWBH** works alongside the nationwide charity **Surviving Economic Abuse** to provide one-to-one advocacy as well as group workshops for racially minoritised women to improve understanding of economic abuse in their relationships. In 2024/25 the service worked with 10 women who had disclosed that they had possibly been a victim of economic abuse, including post-separation economic exploitation or threats.

⁹⁰ [SafeLives webpage on reviewing MARAC data.](#)

⁹¹ [Change+ programme webpage, run by Cranstoun.](#)

⁹² [The Network of International Women for Brighton & Hove webpage.](#)

- **Equinox**⁹³ provides temporary accommodation alongside a range of outreach / advocacy support for women and TNBI people experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse and other forms of disadvantage like substance misuse and contact with the criminal justice system. Between April 2024 and August 2025, Equinox supported 24 people needing accommodation after experiencing domestic abuse including physical abuse (17 people), controlling or coercive behaviour (14) and psychological abuse (12 people). Abuse occurred by claiming control of survivors' benefits or earnings, controlling their time and property and/or physical or sexual abuse including coercion into sex work. Many Equinox clients had experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) including neglect, sexual or physical abuse and unstable family dynamics which were then complicated or exacerbated as an adult, often in circumstances where they had struggled to receive formal support from police or other professionals.

Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

- In the tragic event of a domestic homicide being recorded, Sussex Police informs the Community Safety Partnership who then become responsible for establishing whether a death is to be the subject of a Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR), formerly known as a Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).
- With the Royal Assent of the Victims and Prisoner Act 2024, the scope of such reviews has been widened to include deaths by suicide where domestic abuse was a feature of the relationship. At the time of writing, 6 such reviews were being undertaken, of which 3 due to homicide and 3 due to suicide. The results of previous reviews are published to help educate professionals and the public around the underlying causes of and responses to the chains of events leading to these deaths. The partnership also publishes its common learnings from these reviews, identifying and clarifying where local practice could be improved and services could be strengthened to support victims and work with perpetrators to reduce the likelihood of such homicides happening again.

Suicide risk

- There is increasing evidence of a link between domestic abuse, poor mental health and suicide. The study of women in the UK who died by suicide between 2015 and 2021 having had contact with mental health services in the past 12 months showed that 26% had experienced domestic abuse. Many of these women also experienced unemployment and adverse life events (including financial problems and/ or loss of job, benefits, or housing), alongside Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, self-harm, violence as a perpetrator, and substance misuse⁹⁴.
- In Brighton and Hove a suicide audit in 2024/25, that covered the period April 2021 to March 2024, found that the percentage of women who died by suicide who had experienced domestic abuse was similar to the national prevalence seen in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2023). However, we would expect the prevalence to be higher given the increased risk of suicide in victims of domestic abuse. This suggests that domestic abuse is under recorded

⁹³ [Equinox Brighton Women's Service webpage.](#)

⁹⁴ [The Lancet Regional Health: Europe research article, PDF. Turnbull et al., 2025 - Domestic violence and suicide in women under the care of mental health services in the UK, 2015–2021: a national observational study.](#)

across the system (including mental health, primary care, drug and alcohol services, and Police).

- An analysis of the near to real-time suspected suicide surveillance (nRTSSS), which provides information based on deaths by suspected suicide reported by local police, found a lower proportion of deaths with domestic abuse recorded. Between July 2021 and March 2024, 12% (13 out of 110 deaths) were recorded as being a victim of domestic abuse. Almost all were women, which suggests that there is a significant under-recording on police systems. Over the same period, 13% (14 out of 110 deaths) were recorded as a suspected or convicted perpetrator of domestic abuse.

Housing and homelessness data

Homelessness applications

- In 2023/24, Brighton and Hove City Council assessed 169 homeless applications as owed a duty (either prevention or relief) where the reason for the loss of a settled home was related to domestic abuse⁹⁵. This accounted for 10% of all homelessness applications which have been assessed as being owed a duty, a similar proportion as seen in 2022/23. Overall numbers of homelessness applications owed a duty by the local authority for reasons of domestic abuse have risen slightly since 2022/23, where 156 were recorded.
- The acceptance rate for main duty decisions made where the reason for the loss of settled home at the time of assessment was related to domestic abuse was 100% (36 of 36) in both 2022/23 and in 2023/24 (38 of 38)⁹⁶. Main duty decisions relating to domestic abuse are comparatively lower than assessments relating to domestic abuse, as interventions may have been made at an earlier stage (such as providing prevention or relief duty), before a main duty decision was required.

Domestic abuse-related anti-social behaviour reported to council housing

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing Team recorded 155 ASB incidents involving domestic violence or abuse in 2024/25, 60% more than the 96 recorded the previous year and considerably greater than the historical range of 60 to 80 incidents annually.

Stonewater

- There continue to be 15 places in the Brighton Refuge providing accommodation and support for women and their children fleeing domestic abuse. During 2024/25 a total of 35 individual women, along with 38 children were accommodated - similar to figures seen in previous years. The service ran at 93% capacity throughout the year, giving 5,082 total occupied days to clients needing refuge. A wide range of support needs were identified during the referral assessment process, particularly diagnosed mental health needs (49 of 105 referrals received in 2024/25), contact with the criminal justice system due to the perpetrator of abuse (23), substance misuse difficulties (18) and physical health issues (18 instances).

⁹⁵ [GOV.UK webpage - Tables on homelessness](#). Statutory homelessness: Detailed local authority-level tables, April 2023 – March 2024.

⁹⁶ Data extracted from [Home Connections database webpage](#), November 2024.

- In 2024/25 the Stonewater Capacity Building Programme⁹⁷ received 26 referrals, most of whom were assessed as at a high risk of abuse or exploitation, with a range of needs including mental health, abuse prevention, language/interpreter support and immigration-related housing issues⁹⁸.

Commissioned Services in the Brighton & Hove Enhanced Domestic Abuse Housing Pathway

- Several services were commissioned to enable the Council to deliver its statutory duty to provide support in safe accommodation under Part 5 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Cumulatively, these services provide an Enhanced Housing Pathway for those affected by domestic abuse. The range of work delivered is detailed below.
- A total of 90 clients aged 16-25 were supported in 2024/25 by the Children and Young Person's Domestic Abuse and Housing Caseworker, employed by **Victim Support**. In 2024/25, the key mental health needs identified were depression, suicidal ideation and anxiety, with the main forms of abuse being recorded as the reason for referral being physical violence (27 of 39 new referrals in 2024/25), coercive control (18), emotional/psychological abuse (16) and stalking/harassment (12).
- A specialist Housing Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (HIDVA) operated by **RISE** saw 53 referrals in 2024/25 for people seeking a range of support owing to homelessness caused by domestic violence or the need to seek emergency accommodation/refuge. Referrals came mostly from council services such as Homelessness Prevention Officers and the Housing Needs Team. In total 105 clients were supported in 2024/25– key needs identified were emotional (26 of 53 referrals), coercive control (23), physical violence (21) and stalking/harassment (16), while the service also worked with people with an offending history. Poor mental health was the most identified disability.
- **RISE's Floating Support (Housing Outreach) Service** works with those who are moving due to domestic violence or abuse, including providing equipment and adaptations to prevent further perpetration of abuse. The service – aimed primarily at women, children and LGBT survivors - received 72 referrals and worked with 148 clients in 2024/25 – mental health disabilities were reported for around 50% (72 or 148) of clients with 32 physical, 19 long-term conditions and 11 reports of learning disabilities were also recorded.
- **RISE's Sanctuary Scheme** aims to give survivors of domestic abuse options to remain at home through providing safety and security measures. Throughout 2024/25, 190 people were referred to the service, with 209 clients open on caseloads across the four quarters of the year, including a large number who were referred to both the Sanctuary Scheme and for Housing Outreach support. The most recorded needs or disabilities were mental health issues (noted in 94

⁹⁷ The programme supports survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and other harmful practices from across Black and Minority Ethnic, minoritised, and marginalised communities in the city. Its IDVA provides tailored, culturally sensitive interventions and planning for personal safety, signposting, workshops and advocacy alongside support finding accommodation.

⁹⁸ This service aims to provide improved support to people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), using its knowledge of legal aid processes and relationship building to guide clients towards appropriate legal support.

referrals), physical disabilities (30 clients), learning disabilities (19 clients) and other long-term health conditions (26 clients). Other frequently cited additional needs included having dual or multiple diagnoses, pregnancy or accessibility requirements.

- **RISE's Rising Stars** programme provides community-based support for young people impacted by domestic abuse, alongside support in finding safer and more suitable housing. The service is aimed at 6- to 11-year-olds and their parents/carers, as well as a **Mini Stars** programme for children aged 0 to 5. Over 2024/25, the service received referrals for 29 children and 23 of their parents/carers. Needs and disabilities identified in these referrals included undiagnosed trauma, speech disorders and diagnosed and undiagnosed autism and ADHD.
- **Switchboard** provides housing support for LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse through a specialist caseworker, helping to navigate clients out of homelessness, insecure tenancy or domestic-abuse related housing breakdown to stable accommodation. In 2024/25 the service worked with 85 clients aged 16+, most of whom presented as homeless or in need of support to maintain their current tenancy. A large proportion of clients identified as living with mental ill-health, neurodiversity and/or chronic illness or physical disability.
- The Level Up Program offered by **Cranstoun**⁹⁹ aims to reduce harm and minimise trauma at home where young people have been using harmful behaviour. In 2024/25 the programme received 22 referrals and worked with 20 young people aged 12 to 18, many of whom showed a history of anti-social behaviour, familial domestic violence and neurodiversity and/or anxiety. Feedback received from the programme's client and families showed improved emotional regulation and coping mechanisms. The Brighton & Hove Flexible Fund is a last-resort fund for survivors of domestic abuse living in the city, from which agencies supporting survivors of domestic or sexual abuse can apply for money for goods and services to make a positive difference to their housing situation as well as for other emergency expenditure. In 2024/25, there were 23 successful applications to the Flexible Fund, totalling around £5,200. These funds were used for a variety of supporting purchases like replacing passports and essential documents, white goods, emergency clothing/toiletries, smart doorbells and security cameras.

Work with perpetrators

- Cranstoun also run its Men and Masculinity Programme¹⁰⁰, a 24-week programme aimed at men who have recognised that their own behaviour has damaged their relationships. Cranstoun received 53 referrals in 2024/25 from a combination of social care sources and from self-referral, from which 47 were accepted into the programme, covering a wide set of ages between 18 and 60. The logged needs of perpetrators worked with include substance misuse histories and poor mental health, as well as, increasingly, for neurodiversity including ADHD. The primary nature of abuse was coercive and emotional abuse in all cases, and physical violence in nearly half of cases among those accepted into the programme in 2024/25.

⁹⁹ [Cranstoun webpage on the Level Up Programme.](#)

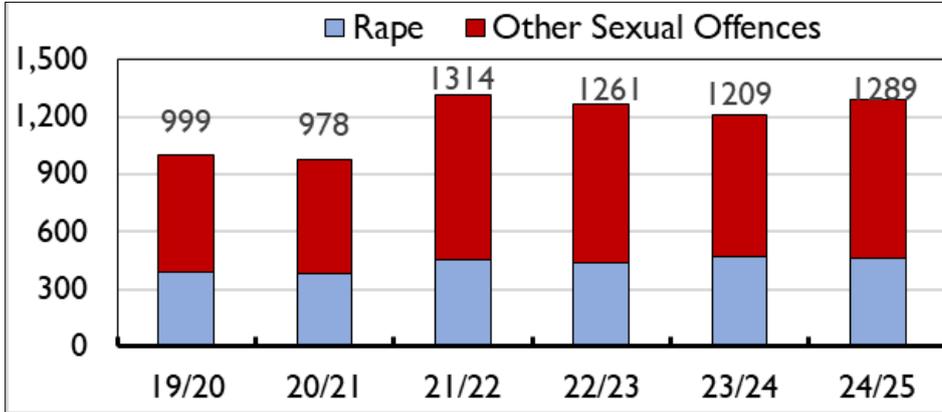
¹⁰⁰ [Cranstoun - Men & Masculinity programme webpage.](#)

Sexual Violence and Abuse

Police recorded sexual offences

- There were 1,289 sexual offences recorded in the city in 2024/25. Sexual offences recorded by the police remain historically high in the city, being 6.6% higher than in the previous year and remaining above 1,200 for the last four years, as seen in **Figure 39**.

Figure 39 - Sexual Offences by type, 2019/20 to 2024/25.

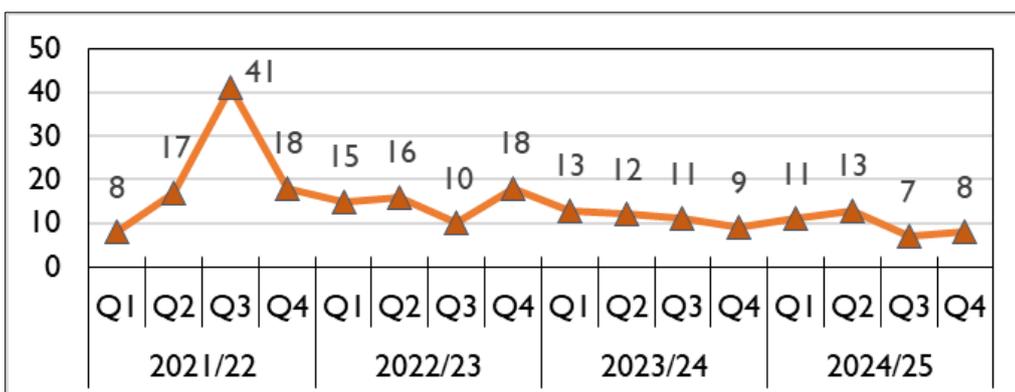


- The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2024/25 estimated that 3% of women and 0.7% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of sexual assault during the year ending March 2025. Using mid-2024 population estimates, this would equate to 3,766 women and 826 men in the city in 2024/25. Using total prevalence estimates from the CSEW would also suggest that 32,140 women and 6,960 men in the city have been a victim of sexual assault – including any perpetrated or attempted rape, penetration, indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching - at least once since the age of 16.

Spiking incidents and recorded sexual assaults at Accident and Emergency

- In 2024/25 there were 39 attendances logged at Accident and Emergency departments relating to alcohol or assault in the city where spiking was also mentioned in notes, as seen in **Figure 40**. This is slightly less than the 45 recorded in the previous year and has not followed a seasonal pattern. Among the 39 attendances logged due to spiking in the city in 2024/25, 25 related to female patients and 14 to males. Patients' ages ranged from 18 to 55, more than half (29, 59%) related to patients aged 18 to 25.

Figure 40 - Accident and Emergency Attendances at Princess Royal Hospital, Royal Sussex County Hospital and Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital where free complaints fields contain the text 'spiking' or 'spiked', 2021/22 to 2024/25.



Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding referrals from health agencies

- In 2024/25 there were 94 concluded Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries by Brighton & Hove City Council where sexual abuse or sexual exploitation was noted, from 915 total enquiries. This has remained consistent, with 94 enquiries the previous year and 101 recorded in 2022/23.
- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) recorded 19 sexual abuse-related adult safeguarding concerns in the city in 2024/25, fewer than the 32 recorded in 2023/24 but more than the 17 recorded in 2022/23.
- In 2024/25, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust recorded 7 sexual abuse-related adult safeguarding concerns for people attending its hospitals who are residents of Brighton & Hove, more than the 4 recorded in 2023/24 but lower than in any of the prior three years.

Safeguarding enquiries opened by Adult Social Care

- Brighton & Hove City Council raised 94 Section 42 adult safeguarding enquiries with sexual abuse or sexual exploitation as a factor in 2024/25, identical to the number raised the previous year – there were 101 recorded in 2022/23, a significant increase from the 58 recorded in 2021/22.

Specialist services

- **Survivors Network** supports people who have experienced sexual violence through therapy services, practical support from Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA), workshops and groupwork. In 2024/25, its Welcome Team received 578 referrals, alongside 118 referrals to its Adult Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA). Overall, 280 adults and 40 children were supported through counselling. Other services required clients to be added to waiting lists, such as its Adults' Peer Group Groups (161 added) and its Children and Young People's ISVAs (14 added).
- When including clients already on waiting lists before 2024/25, Survivors Network gave support to 976 people, some of whom were supported by multiple services. Of referred clients, 39% (378 instances) had reported rape, a further 28% experienced some other form of sexual violence, and around 20% had historical child sexual abuse as the primary incident.
- The most common alleged perpetrators, when disclosed, were ex-partners (25%), acquaintances (21%), family members (14%) current partners (5%), or strangers (12%). Overall, 66% of clients self-reported having a disability, including mental health issues (71% of all clients supported), neurodivergence (17%), long-term illness (14%) as well as those reporting physical, learning and/or sensory disabilities. The key impacts of the abuse experienced by clients included mental health issues, sleep issues, nightmares/flashbacks, suicidal thoughts, relationship problems and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

Survey data

Health Counts

- The Health Counts survey 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including questions around feelings of safety, worry about rape and sexual assault, and experiences of sexual harassment.
- Nearly half of all female respondents (48%) reported feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone within approximately 15 minutes from their home at night, compared with 19% of male respondents, and 34% of Health Counts respondents overall. Respondents aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 were significantly more likely than the city average to report feeling a bit or very unsafe at night, as well as people aged 85 years or over.
- Health Counts 2024 asked respondents how worried they were about being sexually assaulted or raped. Over one in five respondents (21%) reported that they were very or fairly worried. This was significantly higher for females than males, with 34% of females reporting that they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted/raped, compared to 7% of males.
- Respondents in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about sexual assault or rape compared with respondents as a whole, with 40% of respondents aged 18-24 years, and 30% aged 25-34 years reporting they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted or raped.
- Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or who described their ethnicity as 'Other'¹⁰¹, are Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI), LGBTQ+, disabled, or live in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city were all significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted/raped.
- Health Counts also asked about experiences of sexual harassment. Of Health Counts respondents, 16% had experienced catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months. This compared to 8% for Great Britain in 2022 from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. Younger respondents had significantly higher levels of experience of sexual harassment than all respondents; 42% of 18 to 24 year olds, and 27% of 25-34 year olds reported experiencing catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months.
- Over one in four (26%) female respondents, compared to one in twenty (5%) male respondents reported experiencing catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months.
- Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or of Arab ethnicity, are TNBI, LGBTQ+, disabled, or live in temporary/ emergency accommodation all had significantly higher levels of experience of catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months, compared with all respondents.

¹⁰¹ Ethnic groups included Asian or Asian British; Black, Black British, Caribbean or African; Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups; Arab; Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller; White British; White Irish or other White; or Other ethnic group.

- In addition, 13% of Health Counts respondents reported having experienced feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months. This compared to 7% for Great Britain in 2022 from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. Again, younger respondents were significantly more likely to report having experienced this; 34% aged 18-24 years, and 21% aged 25-34 years reported having experienced feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months.
- TNBI, LGBTQ+, female, and disabled respondents, as well as respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or who are living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, or who have experience of the care system as a child/ young person all showed significantly higher levels of experience of feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months, compared with all respondents.

Safe and Well at School Survey 2023

- The Safe and Well at Schools Survey 2023 asked students whether they had seen a selection of harmful sexual behaviours in school at some point in the last year. Among all secondary school pupils responding to this question:
 - 18% reported that sexual harassment (unwanted sexual behaviour towards a person making them scared, upset, offended or humiliated) occurred at school at least once in the last year.
 - 54% had heard rumours about someone else's sexual activity.
 - 47% had heard sexist name calling.
 - 16% knew about someone sending or receiving nude images/videos.
 - 20% reported seeing sexual images/videos being shared without consent.

Stalking and harassment

- In 2024/25 there were 2,014 stalking and harassment offences – including the crimes of control/coercive behaviour and threatening communications - recorded in the city, 14% fewer than in the previous year. This crime type has decreased steadily since 2021/22, mostly due to decreases in recorded malicious communications crimes.
- The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2024/25 estimated that 4.0% of women and 1.8% of men across England and Wales had experienced stalking during the year ending March 2025. Using mid-2024 population estimates, this would equate to 5,022 women and 2,123 men in the city in 2024/25.
- **Veritas**¹⁰² provides specialist advice and advocacy support across Sussex to victims of stalking. In 2024/25, Veritas received 384 unique referrals from residents of Brighton & Hove, from which 137 people became clients. This resulted in a 36% uptake rate, lower than in the previous year (65%) and in 2022/23 (48%). In 71% instances the perpetrator was identified as an ex-intimate partner, while in 22% of cases it was a non-intimate acquaintance and in 6.5% of cases the perpetrator was a colleague. Thirty-nine percent of clients expressed a mental health need

¹⁰² [Veritas Justice main webpage.](#)

while 14 (10%) had a physical health need, while a further 13 (9%) had needs around alcohol or substance use.

Harmful practices: HBV; FGM, Forced Marriage

- In 2024/25 there were 3 police recorded crimes of honour-based violence, compared with 8 in 2023/24.
- There were no police recorded crimes of forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM) in 2024/25 in the city.
- Healthcare providers in Brighton & Hove identified 15 newly identified individuals with FGM in 2023/24¹⁰³.

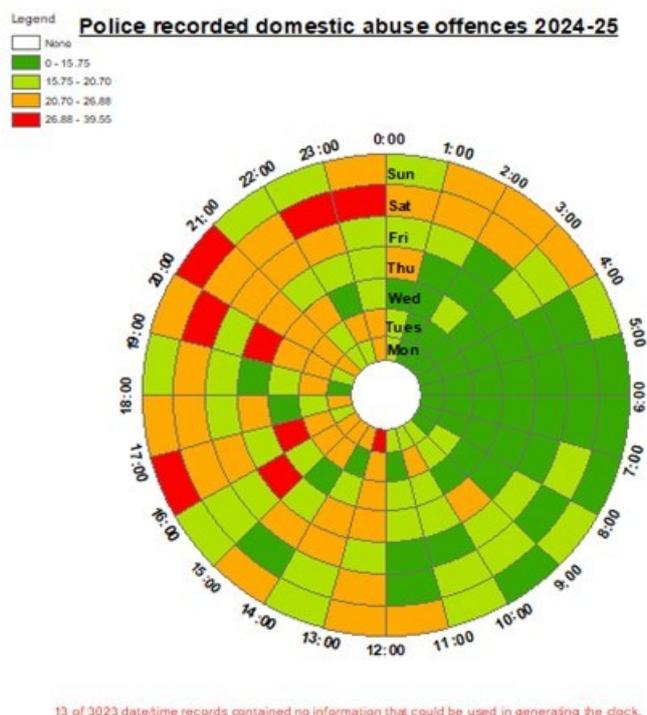
Nature of the problem

Domestic Violence and Abuse

- Of 3,023 police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024/25, 78% were violence against the person offences, 7% were sexual offences, 5% were arson and criminal damage offences, 4% were theft offences, 3% were public order offences and the remaining 3% of offences were made up of small numbers of other and miscellaneous offences.
- 79% of police recorded domestic abuse offences where location type was recorded occurred in a dwelling. A further 14% of offences occurred in a public or open place (the most frequent of which was on the street), and 4% occurred in a hospitality venue. The remaining offences occurred in shops, moving vehicles, commercial venues, educational facilities, medical facilities, and other public buildings.
- Overall, the data clock of police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024-25, seen in **Figure 41**, shows a less pronounced late-night weekend peak than seen in previous years analysis, and offences which are more evenly distributed across the afternoon and evening on most days of the week. However, there remains an elevated number of offences over the weekends, where there are a higher proportion of offences occurring later into Saturday and Sunday morning. Saturday evening shows a peak in offences between 19.00hrs and 20.00hrs and again between 22:00 and 00:00hrs.

¹⁰³ [NHS Digital webpage - FGM data, 2023/24.](#)

Figure 41 - data clock of police recorded domestic abuse crimes in 2024/25.



About the victims/survivors

- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those domestic abuse offences in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 68% of victims were female, 31% were male, 0.5% were transgender, and less than 0.5% were recorded as either 'indeterminate' or other⁶⁶.
- The rate of victimisation for domestic violence peaks in the 30-39 age group (21.6 offences per 1,000 people for women, compared with 9.5 offences per 1,000 people for men) and declines in each subsequent age group after this. This is in contrast with data from the Crime Survey England & Wales (CSEW) in 2024 which found that the age group experiencing the highest prevalence of domestic abuse were aged 16-19 years, with prevalence broadly dropping with age. This was the case for both women and men¹⁰⁴.
- Due to low overall numbers, it is not possible to analyse by age group those police recorded victims of domestic abuse who were recorded as transgender, indeterminate or other⁶⁶.

Data from MARAC

- Demographic data from the city's MARAC cases highlighted that around 2% of victims discussed in 2024/25 were from the LGBT community, 43% of victims had a disability, and around 19% were from the Black and Minority Ethnic community – it should be noted that the clients in nearly a half of cases would be counted more than once. There were also a small number of cases (under 10) where victims were aged under 18, including cases where the perpetrator was under 18.

¹⁰⁴ [ONS, 'Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2024', 2024](#)

Multiple Complex / Compound Needs

- The Changing Futures¹⁰⁵ programme is a programme operating throughout Sussex for people experiencing multiple compound needs, which seeks to improve outcomes for people facing at least three of either homelessness, domestic abuse, mental ill-health, substance misuse and having a history of offending.
- During the quarter to the end of March 2025, 378 people were identified as experiencing multiple compound needs in the city, at least one of which needs was homelessness – from which 60 were also affected by domestic violence. Of those affected by domestic abuse, 56 (93%) were also experiencing mental health issues, 50 (83%) by substance misuse and 29 (48%) had a history of offending behaviour. As a result, 21 were engaging in treatment for substance misuse and 15 were known to be entrenched rough sleepers.
- Of those affected by domestic abuse in Q4 2024/25, 65% were female, 32% male and 3% from the TNBI community. Nearly half of clients (29 of 60) were aged 25 to 40, 24 were aged between 41 and 60 and 5 were aged 18 to 24. These proportions were very similar across all recorded quarters in 2024/25.

About the perpetrators

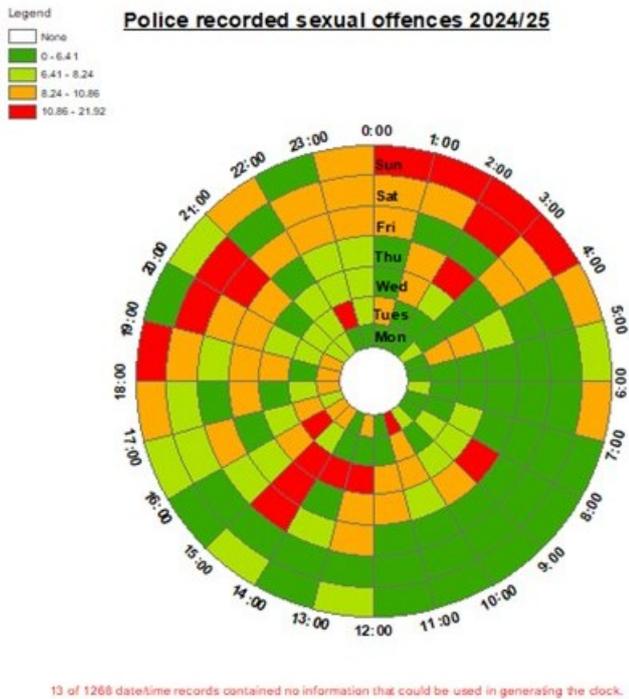
- Police data shows that perpetrators of domestic abuse locally, as nationally, are overwhelmingly male. Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. 79% of offenders charged locally with an offence flagged as domestic violence in 2024/25 were male, 20% were female, and 1% were transgender or non-binary⁶⁶.
- Offenders of domestic abuse are predominantly young, with the highest rate of offending in the 20-29 age group for both males and females, remaining high in the 30-39 age group and declining in subsequent age groups after this.
- Analysis of the relationship between victim and perpetrator of police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024/25 showed that 40% of domestic abuse offences had a perpetrator, followed by 17% which had a perpetrator who was a current spouse or partner, 16% where the perpetrator was recorded as an intimate, 10% respectively who were a family member or child, 4% who were a parent or guardian and 2% each which were recorded as a stranger or acquaintance.

Sexual Violence & Abuse

- The data clock for police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25, shown in **Figure 42**, shows an elevated number of police recorded sexual offences over the evenings and night-time, which is particularly evident over the weekends, with an elevated number of offences on a Friday night/ Saturday morning and again on a Saturday night/ Sunday morning, where there is a particular peak in offences until 04.00hrs. On weekdays there are also smaller peaks in offences earlier in the afternoons, particularly between 14.00hrs and 15.00hrs.

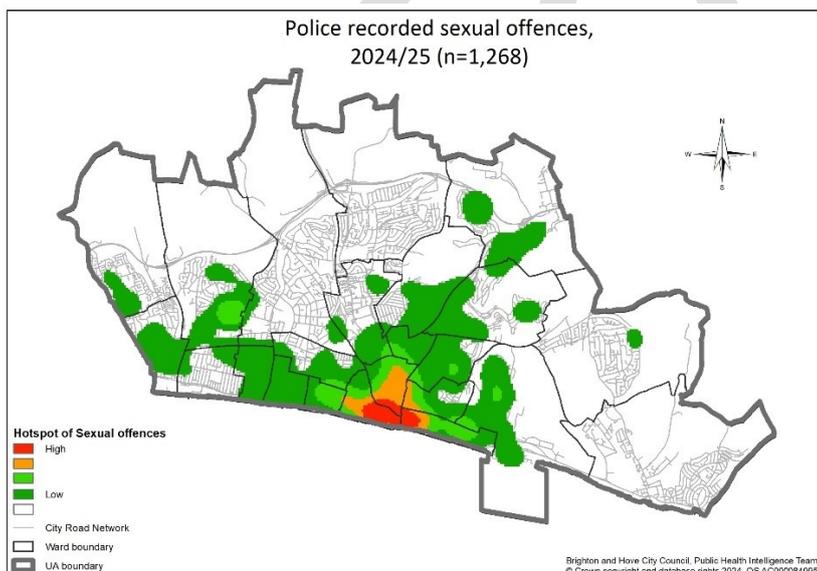
¹⁰⁵ [Changing Futures Sussex webpage.](#)

Figure 42 - data clock of police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25.



- As shown in **Figure 43**, the hotspot for police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25 is located in the city centre, covering an area including part of North Laine (between North Street and Church Street), the lanes and adjacent seafront, as well as the Old Steine and part of Kemptown. There are also clusters of offences following main arterial routes out of the city centre both to the west and north.

Figure 43 - hotspot map of police recorded sexual offences in Brighton and Hove, 2024/25.



- Over half (55%) of sexual offences in this time period occurred in a dwelling, with a further 19% of offences taking place in a public/ open space, the most common of which was the street, followed by the beach. 14% of sexual offences occurred in a hospitality venue such as a club, pub or restaurant. However, the location of the offence may be different to the location where the victim first meets a perpetrator.

About the victims/survivors

- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. In 2024/25, 78% of victims of sexual offences where sex or gender was recorded were female, 20% were male, and 2% were recorded as transgender, 'indeterminate', or other⁶⁶.
- The highest rate of victimisation for both males and females was in the 10-19 age group (16.6 per 1,000 population for females, and 3.9 per 1,000 population for males). For both male and female victims, the rate of victimisation for this age group is nearly twice that of those aged 20-29 (the next highest victim age group) and declines in subsequent age groups.
- Due to low overall numbers, it is not possible to analyse by age group those police recorded victims of sexual offences who were recorded as transgender, indeterminate or other⁶⁶.
- Victim ethnicity was unrecorded in over half of police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25, and therefore analysis is not possible.

About the perpetrators

- Of police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25, 18% were flagged as domestic abuse.
- Of police recorded sexual offences where the relationship between the victim and perpetrator was known, 41% were committed by a stranger, 30% were committed by an acquaintance, 10% were committed by an ex-partner, 7% by an intimate, and 4% respectively by a family member or current spouse/ partner. The remaining offences were committed by a parent/ guardian, child or work colleague.
- Sussex Police currently record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. In 2024/25, 95% (n=71) of those charged with a sexual offence were male and 5% were female. There were no offenders whose gender identity was recorded as transgender, other or indeterminate in this time period⁶⁶.
- Numbers are low and therefore caution must be used, but offending was clustered in the 20-29, 30-39 and 40-49 age groups.
- There was not sufficient information on offender ethnicity to analyse.
- Over half (57%) of offenders charged with a sexual offence in 2024/25 lived in Brighton & Hove, 38% were from outside the city, and 5% had no fixed address.

Stalking and harassment

Police data

- Of those stalking and harassment offences in 2024/25 where victim sex or gender identity was recorded, 65% of victims were female, and 33% were male. Less than 1% of victims respectively were transgender (with a similar male/ female ratio), recorded as 'indeterminate', or other⁶⁶.
- Of those stalking and harassment offences where the location type was recorded, 74% occurred inside a dwelling, and 26% occurred outside of a dwelling. 15% of stalking and harassment offences occurred in a public or open place, the most common of which was on the

street. Stalking and harassment offences which took place outside of a dwelling also occurred in a wide range of other public spaces, including hospitality venues, shops, workplaces, educational and medical settings.

- Over a third (36%) of police recorded stalking and harassment offences in 2024/25 were flagged as domestic abuse.
- In 2024/25, Sussex Police¹⁰⁶ secured 43 Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) and 28 interim orders.

Business Crime Reduction Partnership data

- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) routinely collect data from registered businesses concerning violence against women and girls during the night-time economy (NTE). They report that safeguarding interventions were required in multiple instances where females, intoxicated or otherwise vulnerable, were seen alone and then followed or harassed by men acting alone or in groups. These instances tended to occur around night-time economy venues or near transport hubs in the city.
- Hotspots identified by the BCRP for such issues during the NTE included West Street – where incidents of (attempted) forced isolation and vulnerability of women were frequently noted. Further hotspots included the area around Queens Road, south towards East Street and onto Marine Parade, where concerning male behaviour around lone or intoxicated women was frequently spotted by businesses.

Resources and gaps

- Brighton and Hove City Council commission a wide range of services for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and for those using abusive behaviour. These are referenced in the data section of this strategy. In addition, several services are commissioned by the PCC. However, services are not securely funded due to the public sector funding situation. VAWG is an entrenched issue, and more consideration must be given to secure funding. This should be addressed at a national level.
- The high level of DARDs will have resource implications should areas for improvement be identified.
- Feedback from our recent VAWG Focus Group in July 2025 and MARAC Away Day in September 2025 has enabled us as a partnership to identify the unmet needs/gaps and areas for development. These are noted below:
 - Participants clearly identified a need for a nuanced response to perpetrators to reduce harm and increase victim safety. This included tailored perpetrator behaviour change interventions and in-reach into communities to change attitudes.
 - Another key area of focus is the need to strengthen our prevention and early identification response. Participants felt that education institutions and the health

¹⁰⁶ [Sussex Performance & Accountability Meeting - 17 July - Thursday 17 July 2025, 1:00pm - Sussex PCC Webcasting.](#)

sector were key to achieving this due to their unique access to people in clinics or education settings.

- The theme of our recent MARAC Away day reflected on the performance of the MARAC since we reverted to the SAFELIVES 10 Principles of an Effective MARAC, which is national best practice. There has however been a significant reduction in repeats. In addition, we agreed to utilise the MARAC's professional judgement category to refer those DA survivors identified/disclosing suicidal ideation.
- There is a lack of local data on violence against women and girls facilitated by technology or occurring in online spaces. There is an ongoing challenge to understand fully the impact of online harms locally, and how changes to methods of offending intersect with domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls that occur in the physical space.
- There continues to be an underreporting/under recording of harmful practices/ sexual exploitation. This is an area for focus going forward.

Summary of key issues

- Data confirms that all forms of VAWG continue to be a significant issue in Brighton and Hove with high levels of harm occurring daily. Often, survivors experience multiple forms of VAWG coterminously and are often victims of DA/Stalking/SV and Honour crimes all at the same time.
- Since the last Community Safety Strategy, the most significant emerging trend which must influence how we model our response to VAWG is that of “harm from oneself” (as a consequence of experiencing VAWG) rather than harm from “another” (seen in DA/SV/Stalking) or “community” (seen in exploitation/female genital mutilation/ forced marriage/honour crimes). This change is reflected in the high levels of domestic abuse related suicide deaths locally and nationally. Therefore, it is imperative that we see VAWG prevention as suicide prevention as well.
- The startling number of DARDRs (domestic abuse related death review) with 6 active reviews at the time of writing (with 3 suicide deaths) highlights that an approach dominated by a criminal justice lens does not lend itself to harm reduction. Going forward, there is a need to consider how we consider how prevention of VAWG is also suicide prevention. Therefore, going forward, the challenge for Commissioners working across programmes including housing, mental health, substance misuse, children's services could be to integrate a VAWG and suicide prevention lens into the services' they commissioned. These services must then ensure routine enquires are conducted, and ensure staff are able to identify indicators of risk and know how to signpost appropriately to specialist services or the MARAC.
- The level of high-risk cases to MARAC with a recent reduction in repeat cases highlights improved timely responses in order to decrease risk. However, the volume of MARAC cases, which is higher than the UK average locally, highlights a need to improve how we tackle perpetrators.
- There is an ongoing need for specialist services for perpetrators and victims of VAWG which require sustainable funding.

- There is an ongoing need to strengthen the system to ensure harm reduction and prevention initiatives are accessible particularly for those who may find it more difficult to access services. This includes those with disabilities or mental wellbeing issues, those with multiple compound needs, those with substance use issues, those with insecure immigration status, BME communities and since the Supreme Court Ruling - Trans people and women.
- Our focus groups confirmed what the data tells us that perpetrators are the key problem and feedback indicates that a more robust approach to tackling perpetrators must be developed. This should include exploring how we ensure survivors and their children do not have to leave their home.
- Support for children affected by VAWG is a significant gap. Our focus group highlighted recommendations for future work referenced in the next section.
- National research¹⁰⁷ and feedback from our focus groups agreed that one size does not fit all, whilst some partners felt a model with all services under one provider was a more useful service model.

Recommendations for partnership work

It is imperative that VAWG is recognised as a safeguarding issue irrespective of the risk level and that those affected are provided with an appropriate response to their risk and intersecting needs. Going forward, it is proposed that as a partnership we will:

- Address the gap in resources for the management of perpetrators which was identified from our focus groups and ensure that there are consequences for abusive behaviour.
- Acknowledge that there is a need for a more nuanced approach to VAWG which includes effective management of perpetrators which must include community level awareness raising action to ensure that all residents know they are also part of the solution in preventing and tackling VAWG. There is an ongoing need to effectively manage perpetrators and serial perpetrators.
- Implement the recommendations from DARDRs through the DARDR Oversight Panel.
- Continue to develop our response to suicidal ideation for survivors of VAWG including referrals to MARAC.
- Acknowledge that VAWG prevention is also suicide prevention.
- Develop a robust response to dual allegations to enable front line practitioners to make informed decisions about appropriate referrals.
- Consider how to improve the response to those with substance use issues who experience DA and to ensure they are signposted to specialist support and aware of their rights.
- Develop a Community of Practice to improve the response to VAWG by front line workers.

¹⁰⁷ [Domestic Abuse Commissioner Report, PDF. A Patchwork of Provision How to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales, Summary Report, 2022.](#)

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- Continue to work with Licensing and the Police to address VAWG linked to the nighttime economy.
- Incorporate the finding of the national MARAC Review into the BHCC MARAC.
- Develop an enhanced pathway for those affected by sexual exploitation with clear exit routes. This will be developed in conjunction with specialist services.
- Review the Enhanced Housing pathway.
- Review the progress of the Safehaven by the Sea Report recommendations.
- Scope an enhanced response to children and young people affected by VAWG within the Family Centres.
- Develop prevention and early intervention in partnership with the Health and Education sector.
- Utilise any opportunities under the new 10 Year Plan for Health to improve access to VAWG support.
- Continue to ensure that services working with marginalised survivors are part of the partnership.
- Continue to centre survivor voice in future commissioning decisions.
- Consider how to address those areas where we have limited data. This includes scoping the link between coercive control and girls in gangs
- Continue to support the wider voluntary sector to understand how to refer into support services.
- In partnership with the Business Crime Reduction Partnership, work to improve safety in public spaces and in the business sector.

9. Anti-social behaviour

Introduction

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is often mischaracterised as low level, yet its cumulative impact on victims and communities can have devastating consequences¹⁰⁸. Research commissioned by the Home Office identified that ASB negatively impacted on the quality of life of nearly all victims. The most common emotional impacts are annoyance and anger, while more severe effects like fear, anxiety, loss of confidence and difficulty sleeping are experienced by around a quarter of victims, often with longer lasting consequences such as behaviour change and loss of sense of safety or freedom¹⁰⁹.

The national response currently includes the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provides flexible powers, including Civil Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders and Community Protection Notices, and centres on the principle of putting victims first¹¹⁰. The Anti-social Behaviour Principles which accompany this Act describe a multi-agency approach and emphasise that victims must be taken seriously, kept informed and provided with support, and that perpetrators should have opportunities to take responsibility for their actions¹¹¹. Recent changes under the Crime and Policing Bill 2025 strengthen Police and local agency powers under the 2014 Act to tackle ASB by introducing the Respect Order, extending enforcement timeframes, increasing penalties, and broadening authority to issue closure notices and fines¹¹².

Understanding and addressing the underlying contributory factors or drivers of ASB, such as substance use, mental health issues and neighbourhood deprivation is necessary for long term resolution, in order to solve rather than merely displace problematic behaviour¹¹³.

A review of evidence on youth ASB highlighted a range of risk and protective factors. Risk factors for becoming involved in ASB include substance use, criminal history, mental ill health, adverse childhood experiences, abuse or neglect, poor parental supervision, and school bullying¹¹⁴. Peer pressure and lack of a supportive school environment also contribute. On the protective side, a separate meta-analysis identified 50 domains with significant negative associations with ASB; these included traits like agreeableness, prosocial values, life satisfaction, strong peer and intimate relationships, parental control, self-esteem and general resilience¹¹⁵.

¹⁰⁸ [Home office webpage - Guidance - Anti-social behaviour case review, 2020.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Home Office webpage - Research and analysis report, 2023 - Impacts of anti-social behaviour on individuals and communities.](#)

¹¹⁰ [Home office webpage - Statutory guidance, accessed August 2025 - Anti-social behaviour powers: statutory guidance for frontline professionals.](#)

¹¹¹ [Home office webpage - Guidance report, accessed August 2025 - Anti-social behaviour principles.](#)

¹¹² [Home office webpage - Policy Paper, 2025 - Crime and Policing Bill 2025: factsheets.](#)

¹¹³ [Home office webpage - Research and analysis report, 2023. Anti-social behaviour: incident journey, from reporting to resolution.](#)

¹¹⁴ [Clinical Psychology Review publication. Ayano, G et al, 2024. Risk and protective factors of youth crime: An umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses.](#)

¹¹⁵ [Journal of Youth and Adolescence publication. Gubbels, Assink and van der Put, 2023. Protective Factors for Antisocial Behavior in Youth: What is the Meta-Analytic Evidence?](#)

National and local context

National

Having decided not to take forward the ASB action plan that the previous government published in March 2023, the current government has indicated that alongside the delivery of its Safer Streets mission, better tackling of ASB will be one of the priorities in its forthcoming Crime and Policing Bill.

It aims to achieve this by:

- Giving the police and others stronger powers to tackle antisocial behaviour by introducing Respect Orders, removing the need for police to issue a warning before seizing vehicles being used antisocially, and strengthening the use of existing antisocial behaviour powers.
- Introducing new offences of arranging or facilitating begging for gain and trespassing with intent to commit a criminal offence will ensure that police have the powers they need following the upcoming repeal of the Vagrancy Act 1824.
- Better protecting retail workers by introducing a new offence of assaulting a retail worker and repealing section 176 of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, which downgraded the police response to so-called “low-value shop theft”.
- Better protecting emergency workers by introducing new offences for racially or religiously aggravated behaviour perpetrated against them.

Local

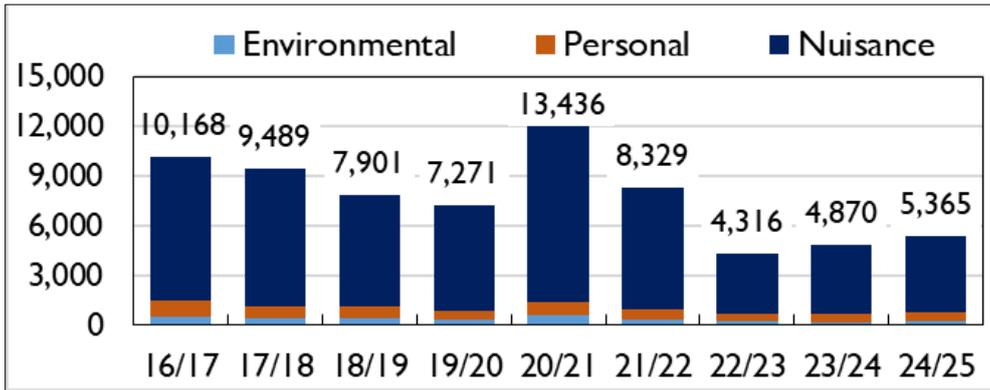
- The Community Safety Team moved into the new Families, Children and Wellbeing directorate on 1st January 2025 as part of the new Community Cohesion Team; the re-organisation resulted in a short-term constriction on capacity to respond to reported ASB.
- We have continued to see an increase in overt drug use and associated ASB in some central areas of the city and continue to work with those affected and key partners to find both short and long-term solutions.
- Policing Priorities and High Harm hot spot teams continue to conduct both covert and overt activity in identified geographical areas of the city and to co-ordinate multi-agency days of action in these locations to address ASB, overseen by the Joint Action Group.

Overview of scale and trends

Police recorded ASB incidents

- In 2024/25 there were 5,365 ASB incidents recorded by police, 10% higher than in the previous year, following the long-term peak in ASB incidents recorded in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic, as shown in **Figure 44**. ASB incidents fell to around 4,300 in 2022/23 – recorded numbers increased by around 10% in both of the following years.

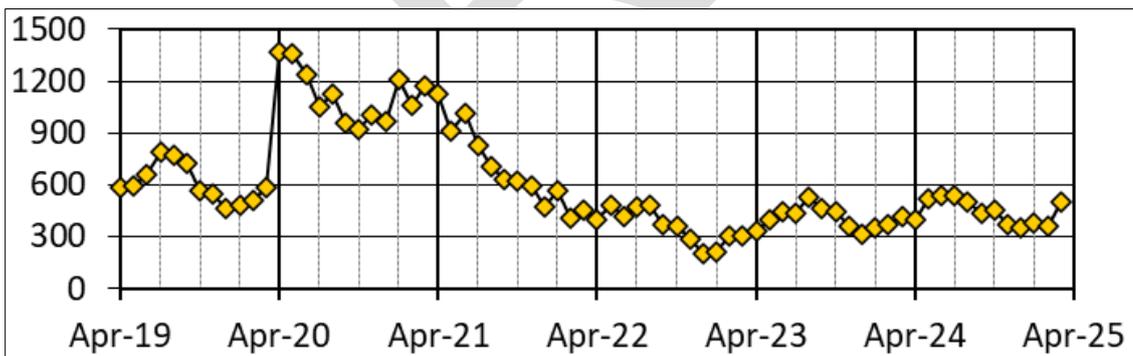
Figure 44 - ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police, by type, 2016/17 to 2024/25.



- Among the three types of ASB incidents recorded by police – Personal, Nuisance and Environmental – Nuisance continued to be the most recorded, making up between 85% and 88% of incidents annually; all types of incident increased in 2024/25. Since 2022/23, Personal ASB has made up around 10% of incidents and Environmental ASB the remainder.

- **ASB Nuisance** – includes reports of noise, street drinking, aggressive begging, alcohol - related incidents and public drug dealing.
- **ASB Personal** – includes reports of neighbourly issues, harassment or threats, drug use and hate incidents not recorded by Sussex Police as a hate crime / incident.
- **ASB Environmental** – includes reports of littering, fly-tipping, drug litter and other evidence of drug use, graffiti, tent encampments etc.
- These lists are not exhaustive or mutually exclusive. Within each category there is a wide range in geographical impact, harms caused, and severity.

Figure 45 - ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police, April 2019 to March 2025.



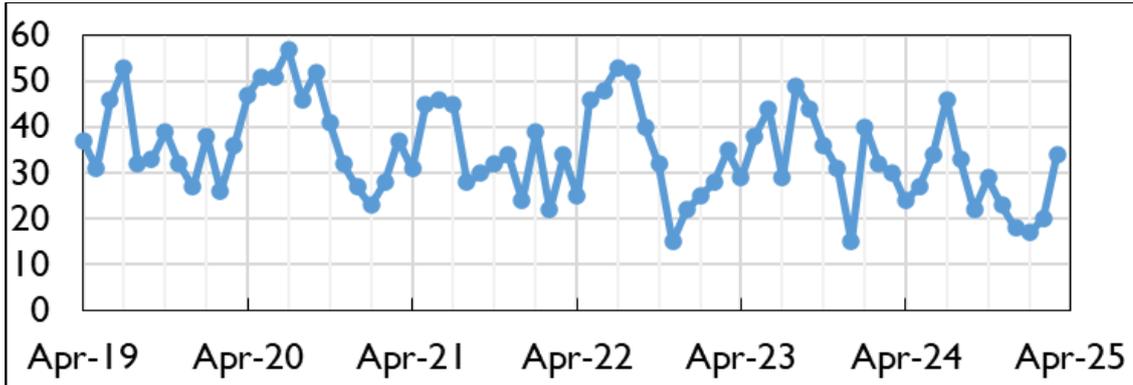
Police recorded criminal damage and arson

- In 2024/25 there were 2,342 criminal damage and arson offences in the city, 3.3% fewer than recorded in the previous year and continuing a gradual decrease in recorded offences since 2019/20, when 2,934 were recorded.
- Compared with the previous year, criminal damage recorded against dwellings increased by 5.7%, with 631 crimes recorded. Conversely, recorded criminal damage against businesses or community buildings decreased by 4% in 2024/25, with 562 crimes recorded.

Community Safety Casework Team Data

- In 2024/25 there were 327 incidents of ASB recorded by the Brighton & Hove City Council's Community Safety Casework Team (CSCWT), 22% fewer than the 417 the previous year. In the previous three years the number of recorded ASB incidents remained consistently between 410 and 420; the 327 cases recorded in 2024/25 were a long-term low. From these reported instances, 54% were referred to another service, 39% resolved by the Casework Team itself and the remaining taken up by the team, similar to previous years.

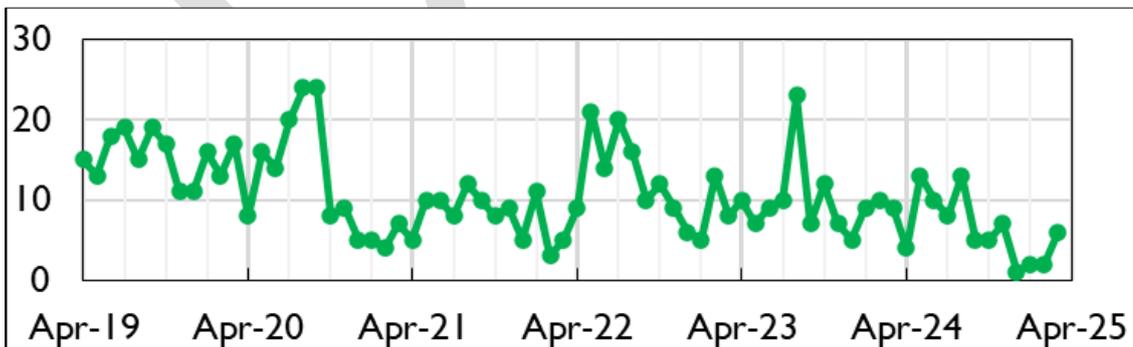
Figure 46 - total reports of ASB to the Community Safety Casework Team, April 2019 to March 2025.



Rough sleepers and the street community

- The Casework Team record whether incidents they receive are related to anyone from the street community. In 2024/25, 76 incidents (out of 461 incidents across ASB, Hate and Other incidents; 16% of all cases) related to someone from the street community; this is lower in number and proportion of street community-related incidents recorded in the previous two years (143 in 2022/23, 23% of all incidents; 118 in 2023/24, 19%). As with other forms of reported ASB incidents, these tend to show a seasonal pattern, with higher numbers in the summer months.

Figure 47 - Incidents reported to the Community Safety Casework Team, linked to the street community, Apr 2019 to March 2025.

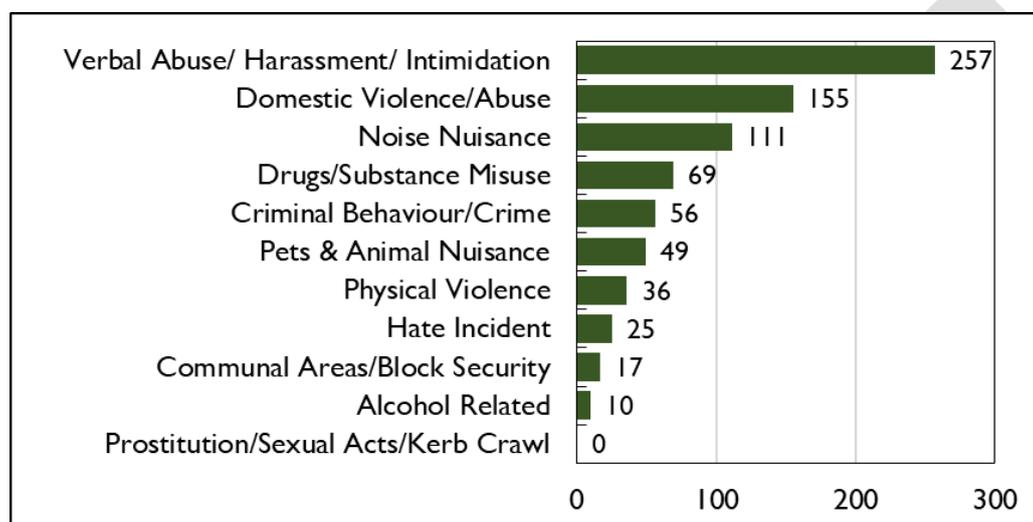


- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership recorded 169 reports of begging affecting businesses in 2024/25, of which 143 were recorded as persistent in nature.

Council Housing data

- There were 785 incidents of ASB recorded by Brighton & Hove City Council’s Housing Team in 2024/25, 16% more than in the previous year and the most recorded since the 822 recorded in 2020/21.
- Among the reports made to council housing around ASB, as shown in **Figure 48**, 33% (257 in total) related to verbal abuse, harassment or intimidation, with a further 20% being related to domestic violence or abuse and 14% due to noise nuisance. Compared with previous years, reports of ASB concerning domestic violence/abuse and noise nuisance increased in number and proportion in 2024/25.

Figure 48 - Anti-social behaviour victim or witness reports to Council Housing Team, 2024/25.



- Whitehawk & Marina (145), Coldean & Stanmer (87) and Moulsecoomb & Bevendean (84) wards had the highest number of ASB incidents recorded by Council Housing.

Environmental ASB

- The City Environment Team reports on the number of cases of reported fly-tipping¹¹⁶. There were 1,486 total reported instances of fly-tipping during 2024/25, similar to the 1,481 recorded the previous year but 7.5% more than the 1,382 recorded in 2022/23.
- Graffiti and Environmental Enforcement Teams at Brighton & Hove City Council also recorded 196 instances of graffiti in the period between 1 October and 31 March 2025¹¹⁷. The volume of reports related to offensive graffiti are discussed in **Section 10**.

¹¹⁶ The data shown represented only fly-tipping reports that had an outcome of being found and removed by the BHCC’s Streets Team or asbestos removal contractors. Cases that had an outcome of “not found”, “inaccessible” or being passed on to other teams in the council (or outside of it) were not included.

¹¹⁷ These figures are based on reports to the BHCC City Clean team via the online Report A Problem facility. Those cases observed and cleared by its graffiti team or other relevant council team independently of any prior reports will not be included, and this is therefore likely to be an under-estimate of overall graffiti occurrences.

Nature of the problem

Location of ASB

- Police data for April 2024 to March 2025 shows the most frequent hotspots for police recorded ASB incidents were all located in the city centre and include New Road, St. James's Street, Queens Road, Western Road, and West Street.
- Looking at data from the Community Safety Casework Team, across the two-year period from April 2023 to March 2025, Kemptown and Regency wards have been the areas with the greatest number of incidents recorded by the Casework Team, followed by Central Hove and Queen's Park wards.

Nature of ASB

- Police data for April 2024 to March 2025 shows that 44% of ASB incidents were recorded as 'rowdy nuisance – inconsiderate', 22% were 'rowdy nuisance – neighbour' related, and 13% were 'vehicle related nuisance' incidents. A further 5% were related to solvent misuse, and 4% recorded as street drinking incidents. The remaining smaller numbers of incidents were related to issues such as trespass, noise, begging, malicious communications, abandoned vehicles, and animal related issues.

Impact of ASB on businesses

- As of March 2025, there were 529 members of the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), including 228 with day-time membership, 224 with night-time membership, and 63 with both day and night-time membership.
- The BCRP highlighted that most reports from businesses were around public intoxication, from refusals from customers or trespassers to leave premises, and generally aggressive behaviour.
- In summer months, the BCRP records a greater quantity of ASB relating to children and young people, while aggressive begging and reports of repeated nuisance individuals also affect businesses throughout the year. The BCRP report that in places like fast food areas and queues there were more reports of ASB escalating into physical violence.
- The partnership highlights hotspots of ASB around youth-related ASB on London Road, around Churchill Square / Western Road and in Pool Valley, the last of which is also a noted hotspot for intimidation of members of the public by groups of people. In London Road there were repeat reports in 2024/25 of large groups of people committing ASB, as well as vehicle-related disturbances.

Council tenants involved in ASB

- Taking a snapshot of council tenants involved in ASB as at the end of August 2025, 339 properties were linked to ASB with tenants as victims, and 46 properties were linked to ASB with tenants as perpetrators.
- Compared with the proportion of council housing residents in the city and with households in the 2021 Census, tenants connected to ASB as victims were more likely to be living in flats, living in one-bedroom properties, living in one-person households, aged under 18, have one or more disabilities, or to be LGBTQ+. This is outlined in **Table 1**.

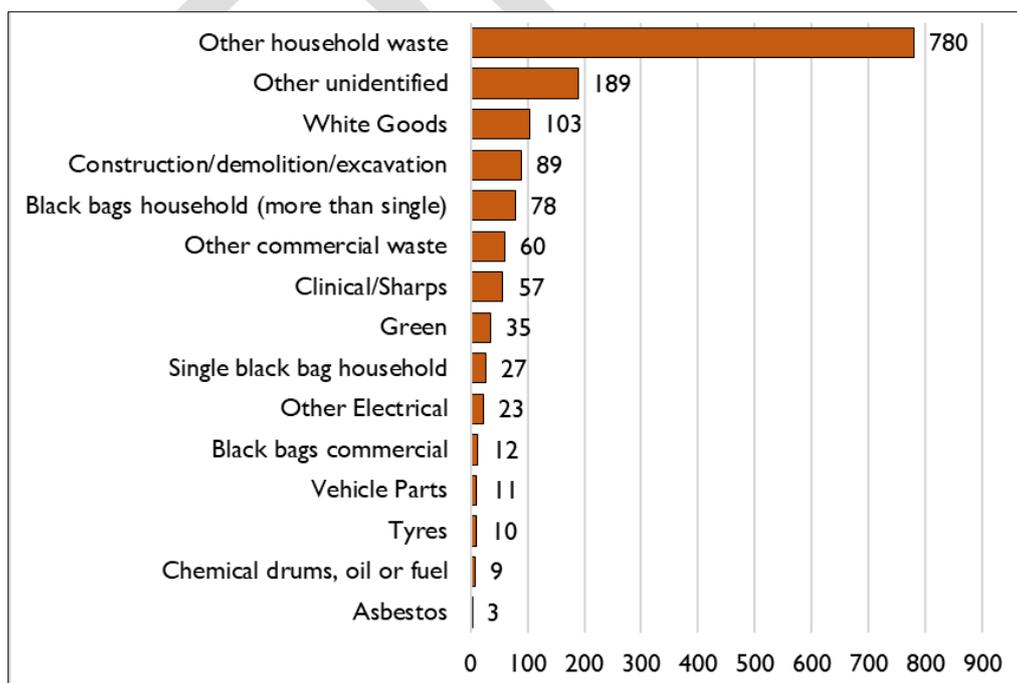
Table 1 - selected characteristics of Council Housing tenants involved in ASB as of August 2025, compared with all council housing residents and households in the 2021 Census.

Tenant Characteristic	% residents linked to ASB reporters	% council housing residents in Brighton & Hove	B&H Census 2021
Living in a flat, bedsit or maisonette	75%	64%	50%
0 or 1 bedroom property	54%	35%	25%
1 resident in the household	60%	48%	35%
Aged under 18	24%	16%	17%
Recorded as having least one disability	31%	22%	19%
From a Black and Racially Minoritised background	20%	20%	26%
Sex: Female	53%	51%	51%
Sex: Male	47%	49%	49%
Bisexual	4%	2%	4%
Gay or Lesbian	7%	4%	6%

Fly-tipping

- Of the 1,486 recorded incidents of fly-tipping recorded by the council’s City Environment Team¹¹⁶ in 2024/25, those classified as ‘other household waste’ (the broadest category encompassing any non-specified waste likely to come from home such as abandoned furniture or toys), was the most frequently recorded, with 780 in 2024/25. ‘Other unidentified’ (189), white goods (103), Construction/demolition/excavation waste (89) and groups of household black bags (78) were the next most common form of fly-tipping recorded. Other forms of fly-tipping are outlined in **Figure 49**.

Figure 49 - number of instances of fly-tipping recorded by City Environment Team by type, 2024/25.



- The 1,486 incidents recorded in 2024/25 were very similar in number to the 1,481 recorded in 2023/24 but increased 7.5% since 2022/23, where there were 1,382 incidents recorded. As a proportion of all instances of fly-tipping recorded in each year, each type of event remained consistent between 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- By number, construction/demolition/excavation waste increased the most between 2022/23 and 2024/25, from 65 to 89 instances, increasing from 5% to 6% of all recorded fly-tipping. Instances classified as 'other commercial waste' increased from 46 in 2022/23 to 60 in 2024/25. Those designated 'clinical / sharps' decreased in prevalence from 71 in 2023/24 and 87 in 2023/24 to 57 in 2024/25, making up around 4% of instances.
- When considered by size, the greatest number of fly-tipping incidents were recorded as of being a single item (587 in 2024/25, 40% of instances), followed by instances where rubbish would fit into a small van (500, 34%) and those which would fit inside a standard car boot (260, 17%). In 2024/25, 112 fly-tipping incidents were large enough in size to need a transit van or larger vehicle (112, 8% of instances) to remove.
- The highway (the public network of pavements and roads) is consistently the most likely place where fly-tipping is recorded, as shown in **Table 2**. These finds made up around 71% of all instances recorded by the City Environment Team.

Table 2 - Location of finds of fly-tipping, 2022/23 to 2024/25.

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Highway	950	1,052	1,051
Footpath/bridleway	303	261	214
Back alleyway	82	56	72
Council Land	33	88	135
Private residential	14	24	14
Yearly totals	1,382	1,481	1,486

- The number and proportion of instances of fly-tipping on council land have increased substantially in the last two years increasing from 33 in 2022/23 to 88 in 2023/24 and 135 in 2024/25 and making up 9% of instances. Meanwhile, instances on footpaths or bridleways decreased to a similar degree, decreasing from 303 in 2022/23 to 214 (14% of total instances) in 2024/25. During this time, the team noted that they have received increasing numbers of requests from council teams maintaining parks and recreation areas for help removing large fly-tips.

Drug litter found by council services

- Brighton & Hove City Council records drug litter incidents found by its services, including City Parks, City Clean, and Estates teams as well as its car parks and public toilets teams. Data is not currently available for full year 2024/25.
- In the year to September 2024, more than 1,150 separate incidents where drug paraphernalia was found with a similar number of needles found across the city. These incidents frequently relate to multiple forms of drug paraphernalia including needles, syringes, nitrous oxide containers, spoons and pans. This figure is considered similar to the number that would have

been recorded in the year to July 2023, if not for issues with data reporting in 2022/23. The summer of 2024 saw an especially high number of incidents of drug litter found in public toilets, with more than 200 separate recorded instances in July and August 2024 reported by contractors across the city.

- Regency and Kemptown wards are highlighted as the areas where the most incidents of drug litter have been logged, as shown in **Figure 50**). Hotspots across the city include Shelter Hall - where the greatest number of needles has been found of any location in the city in this period - as well as toilets on Madeira Drive, West Pier arches, in Goldstone Villas and in Station Road, Portslade. The teams reporting on these finds also reported a number of significant one-off incidents throughout the year, including large finds of nitrous oxide canisters near Queen's Park and bags of drug paraphernalia found in Prince's Place.

Figure 50 - drug litter locations recorded in Brighton and Hove, October 2023 to September 2024



Resources and gaps

- The early intervention youth ASB multi-agency meeting implemented last year continues to operate. It aims to at the earliest opportunity identify and address the behaviour of young people coming to the attention of services and businesses through being involved in ASB.
- The Community Safety Team, alongside our police partners, continues to work with supported accommodation providers, their commissioners and the Business Crime Reduction Partnership to address reported ASB associated with such premises.
- Services continue to utilise Community Protection Warnings and Notices to address persistent behaviour that is detrimental to communities.
- The Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss complex cases with the highest levels of risk and assessed vulnerabilities.
- The Joint Action Group continues to meet monthly to oversee and co-ordinate operational responses to emerging ASB geographical hotspots. This includes locations frequented by

members of the street community, where a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to give clarity to the role each partner plays in addressing these concerns, and the partnership is enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order (alcohol).

- A round table problem solving group has been established to address the specific ASB challenges in the New Road area and to manage how the Pavillion Gardens redevelopment shapes developing issues in the area.

Summary of key issues

- Budgetary pressures will likely threaten further cuts to non-statutory services, many of whom either specialise in addressing ASB or significantly contribute to partnership working to address individuals underlying vulnerabilities or needs that drive their ASB.
- The full consequences of the re-organisation that moved Community Safety into the new Community Cohesion Team are still being worked through with Community Safety now in a different directorate to some of the services, such as regulatory control and environmental health, that it necessarily needs close working relationships with to deliver a comprehensive Community Safety function. New relationships and partnership working practises continue to be forged across these new structures.
- The immediate Community Safety challenge in relation to ASB is how to re-assert this partnership working both across directorates and agencies when all are facing constraints on resourcing and being challenged to identify savings.
- Police recorded ASB remains below the pre-Covid baseline but has shown a rising trend over the last 3 years, whilst ASB reported to council housing has seen a 16% increase in the last year. Hotspots for ASB remain in the city-centre with impacts on residents, businesses and visitors to the city.
- There is a further risk specifically in relation to substance misuse related ASB of public confidence in agencies to comprehensively address this being eroded, as a result of insufficient resources to respond both by comprehensively tackling this behaviour and to address the underlying multiple compound needs of those involved in this behaviour.
- There is a similar risk that the effective redress of ASB perpetrated by those with Multiple Compound Needs, especially in relation to mental health, is compromised if there is insufficient integration between enforcement activity and the support offer provided to these individuals.

Recommendations for partnership work

- The focus of the Community Safety Partnership will remain to ensure that it is doing all that it reasonably can to address ASB in priority geographical areas and by priority individuals, supporting those individuals and communities harmed by the reported behaviour.
- The Joint Action Group (JAG) will continue to identify and respond to emerging concerns in geographical locations in the city, including ASB linked to the street community, whilst the Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will assess our high risk and complex cases, ensuring a multi-agency plan is in place to address the ASB and reduce the harm caused.

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- We will ensure that work undertaken to address Drug and Alcohol related ASB aligns with the council's 2024-30 Drugs & Alcohol Strategy. We will continue to work with supported accommodation providers to ensure that ASB in and around supported accommodation environments is appropriately addressed and the surrounding communities supported.
- We will ensure that enforcement activity in relation to those with Multiple Compound Needs aligns and integrates with the work of the council's Multiple Compound Needs programme to integrate the support provided by the different agencies that engage with this cohort.
- We will continue to implement the established Youth ASB Early Intervention protocol where necessary, working with the business community to ensure continued successful implementation.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, targeting repeat offenders.
- We will continue to offer training and briefings to ASB practitioners across the city, encouraging a harm led approach making the best use of tools and powers available, whilst also promoting the ASB Case Review procedure.
- We will consider and assess any further information from HM Government regarding their crime and disorder priorities and any relevant legislation introduced with the Crime and Policing Bill 2025: factsheets and integrate them, as required, into the ASB action plan.

10. Hate Crimes and Incidents

Introduction

Hate crimes motivated by prejudice against a person's race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity are crimes that cause significant emotional and behavioural harm to victims and create fear and intimidation across entire communities. The emotional impact is complex; research with LGBTQ+ and Muslim communities, for example, shows that indirect experiences of hate crime heightened their perceptions of threat, which in turn elicited mixed emotional reactions of anger, anxiety and shame. This led to behavioural changes ranging from avoidance and increased security to retaliation¹¹⁸.

National data indicates that while overall police-recorded hate crime decreased by 5% in the year ending March 2024, religious hate crimes saw a sharp 25% increase, driven primarily by a rise in offences against Jewish and Muslim people. This was following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict¹¹⁹.

Local deprivation is identified as a key driver of hate crime, with evidence showing that higher levels of deprivation are a significant predictor of right-wing hate crime in England¹²⁰. In this case, economic marginalisation and alienation can create conditions conducive to radicalisation and extremist ideologies¹²¹.

Risk factors for victimisation are linked to visibility and identity. Evidence highlights ethnic and religious identities, and other characteristics like gender identity and disability as risk factors that are commonly measured in research¹²². Protective factors involve strong cohesive communities and institutional trust. However, this trust is often affected by hate crime and rebuilding it requires a consistent, victim-centred response from authorities and a clear legislative framework that is consistently applied.

National and local context

National and International

- The continued and in many ways escalating divisive narratives, especially online, continue to impact community cohesion and increase both the risk and actual prevalence of associated hate incidents and disorder, as first witnessed in the aftermath of the attacks in Southport in July 2024.
- The national phenomenon of large numbers of Union Jack and St. Georges flags being erected/hung from lamp posts and other street furniture in the public domain has further fuelled

¹¹⁸ [Journal of Interpersonal Violence publication. Paterson et al, 2025. Angry and Afraid: Exploring the Impact of Mixed Emotional Reactions to Hate Crimes With LGBTQ+ and Muslim Communities.](#)

¹¹⁹ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Hate Crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025.](#)

¹²⁰ [PLoS ONE publication. Belgioioso, Dworschak and Gleditsch, 2023. Local deprivation predicts right-wing hate crime in England.](#)

¹²¹ [UK Parliament horizon-scanning report. Romanowski and Low, 2024. Extremism and hate crime.](#)

¹²² [Campbell Systematic Reviews publication. Vergani et al, 2024. Mapping the scientific knowledge and approaches to defining and measuring hate crime, hate speech, and hate incidents: A systematic review.](#)

these divisive narratives and associated community tensions, heightening the fears and anxieties of the minority groups targeted in hate incidents.

- The Supreme Court April 2025 ruling and impending Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) guidance on Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex (TNBI) services present a further challenge to community cohesion fuelling both the fear and actual commission of transphobic hate incidents.
- The continued Israel and Palestine violence is having an ever-increasing impact on community cohesion, contributing to an increase in the volume and severity of hate incidents.
- There have recently been two particularly serious incidents; the fatal Manchester Synagogue stabbings on 2 October 2025 and more locally the arson attack on the Peacehaven mosque on 4 October.

Local

- The Community Safety Team moved into the new Families, Children and Wellbeing directorate on 1 January 2025 as part of the new Community Cohesion Team; the re-organisation resulted in a short-term constriction on capacity to respond to hate incidents and community tensions.
- The council continue to receive reports from local community and voluntary sector (CVS) organisations who support migrants that their clients and volunteers are experiencing hostility and aggression when outside the home, for example on buses and in the streets and neighbourhoods where they live. The CVS organisations report that this situation has worsened and they believe that this is due to the divisive narratives at a national level, which focus on migrants and in particular those arriving across the channel. Some of these incidents have not been formally reported to the authorities by victims. Barriers to reporting may include fear of contact with the authorities amongst newcomer communities.
- As has been the case nationally, Brighton & Hove has experienced a concerted campaign of Union Jack and St. Georges flags being erected/hung from lamp posts and other street furniture, raising fears and concerns about rising racism and anti-migrant sentiment. It's notable that the overwhelming majority of complaints the council has received in relation to this are in favour of the flags being removed and concern that this has not been done quickly enough.
- There have been multiple complaints to the council in relation to evangelical preachers, both in relation to the volume of noise of their amplified preaching and its homophobic content.
- Following the Supreme Court's April 2025 ruling, and in anticipation of the forthcoming EHRC guidance on TNBI-inclusive services, tensions within the city have increased, affecting a range of groups and events. TNBI and gender diverse communities have reported heightened experiences of fear, exclusion, and vulnerability during this period, which remains a significant concern given the extent and intensity of the impact on this community. Some individuals and groups holding differing views on sex-based and gender-identity-based rights have also expressed concerns about their perspectives being heard and their own safety. These polarised viewpoints - and the emotions they generate - continue to create challenges for community cohesion in the city.
- The continued Israel and Palestine violence continues to impact local community cohesion and to lead to an increase in reported hate incidents.

- There was an arson attack on the Peacehaven mosque on the 4 October 2025, which is both close to the city and has close ties with its Muslim community.
- In order to find necessary savings to achieve a balanced budget Brighton & Hove City Council was forced to withdraw funding for third party reporting in 2024/25, resulting in a persisting reduction in third party reporting capacity across the city.

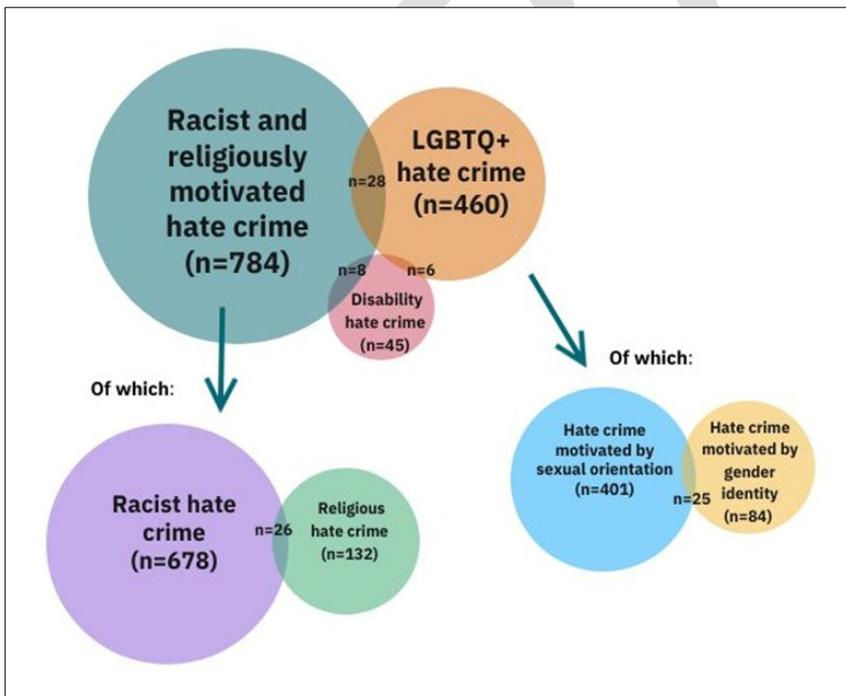
Overview of scale and trends

- Across Brighton and Hove, as nationally, it remains difficult to effectively evaluate the prevalence, variety and impact of hate incidents and crimes. The Partnership recognises, based on our engagement with communities, that the number of hate-motivated instances experienced far outnumber those reported to advocacy agencies or statutory authorities.
- Police statistics offer useful insights but will only ever be reflective of the incidents/crimes reported to them. Across the city, campaigns are held to raise awareness and to encourage reporting; changes in reporting statistics will continue to reflect these changes in propensity and confidence in reporting as much as it will the actual number of incidents and crimes taking place.

Intersectionality in police recorded hate crime

- **Figure 51** shows where police recorded hate crimes in 2024/25 have been recorded as having more than one motivation, for example, those which are both racist and religiously motivated. In 2024/25, there were 93 hate crimes which had multiple motivations.

Figure 51 - Venn diagram showing hate crimes recorded in Brighton and Hove by type, 2024/25.

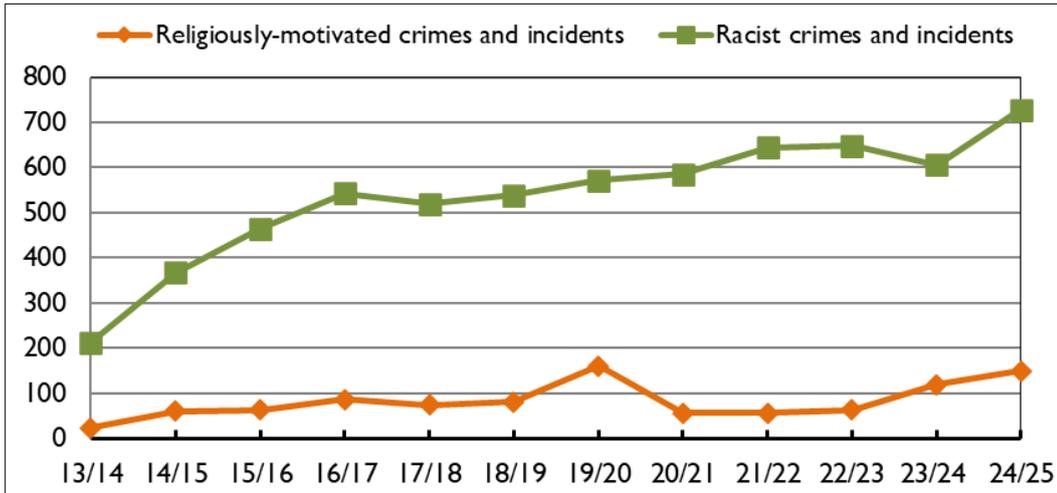


Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents

Police data

- In 2024/25 there were 728 racially motivated crimes and incidents recorded by Sussex Police, 20% higher than in the previous year and continuing a long-term increase.
- There were also 150 crimes and incidents recorded as being religiously motivated in 2024/25, 26% higher than in the previous year and continuing a long-term increase.

Figure 52 – Racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

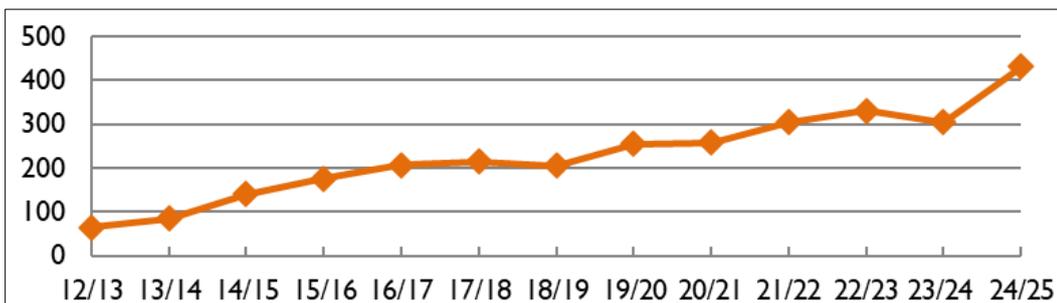
- In 2024/25 the Casework Team recorded 22 incidents of hate due to race, significantly fewer than the 43 recorded the previous year and 55 incidents in 2022/23. In most previous years, between 40 and 60 such incidents had been recorded.
- The Casework Team also recorded 5 incidents due to religion or belief, more than in the previous year. In most years, between 2 and 7 incidents are logged by the team.
- The Council's Housing Team recorded 18 racially or religiously motivated hate incidents in 2024/25, lower than the 25 recorded the previous year and 19 in 2022/23.

LGBTQ+ Hate Crimes and Incidents

Police Data

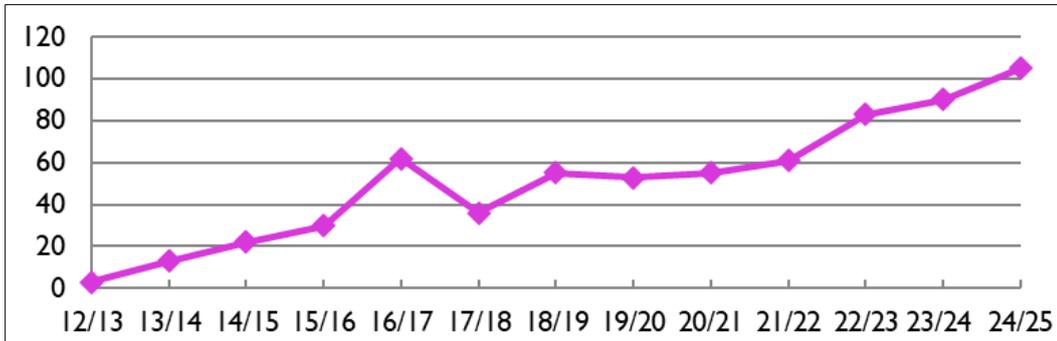
- There were 431 sexuality-motivated crimes and incidents in 2024/25, more than 40% higher than the 305 recorded in the previous year and continuing a longer-term increasing trend.

Figure 53 - Sexuality-motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



- Separately, there were 105 crimes and incidents recorded which were motivated by gender identity, 17% higher than in the previous year and continuing its own long-term substantial increase, especially in recent years.

Figure 54 - Gender identity-motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

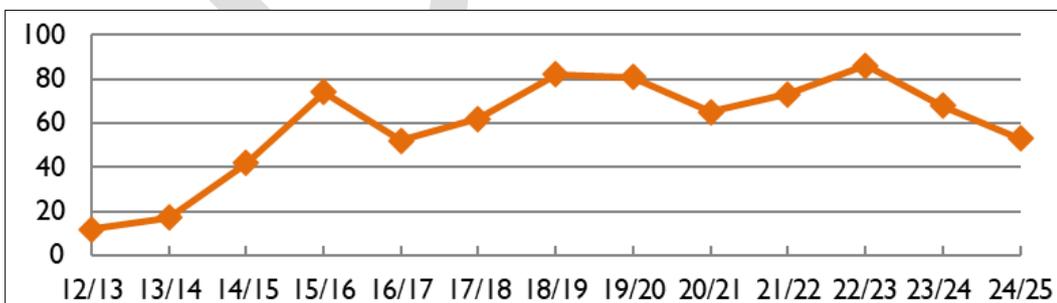
- In 2024/25, the Casework Team recorded 12 hate incidents motivated by sexual orientation, similar to the 14 incidents in the previous year and the 10 recorded in 2022/23. Since 2020/21, numbers of recorded incidents motivated by sexual orientation have fluctuated between 10 and 15 in number.
- The Casework Team also recorded 7 hate incidents motivated by gender identity in 2024/25. This was fewer than the 14 recorded the previous year and 15 in 2022/23 – in most years before 2022/23 fewer than 5 had been recorded, with the exception of 12 in 2018/19.
- The Council Housing Team recorded 6 incidents of hate motivated by homophobia, biphobia or transphobia, similar to numbers recorded in recent years.

Disability Hate crimes and incidents

Police Data

- Sussex Police recorded 53 disability - motivated hate crimes and incidents in 2024/25. This is 22% fewer than in the last year and is the lowest number recorded in 10 years, following a similar decrease in the previous year from a long-term high.

Figure 55 - Disability-motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

- The Casework Team recorded 8 disability-motivated hate incidents in 2024/25. Until 2020/21 the number of incidents fluctuated between 12 and 25 but has remained under 10 since 2021/22.

- The Council Housing Team recorded 3 incidents of hate motivated by disability, the same as in the previous two years.

Data from other agencies

Offensive graffiti

- Offensive graffiti data collated by Brighton and Hove City Council's City Environment Team¹²³ showed 116 instances of explicitly offensive graffiti were reported to the team in 2024/25, which the team recognise is likely to be a significant underestimate of the true extent of offensive graffiti or stickering in the city.
- Anti-faith graffiti was the most common type of offensive graffiti recorded; 39 instances were recorded by council teams in 2024/25, followed by 30 instances of generally offensive imagery/writing (30), political graffiti (21) and racist (10) graffiti.
- The City Environment Team noted a marked increase during 2024/25 of anti-faith and politically themed graffiti, of which the former was mostly antisemitic in nature and therefore likely influenced by the events of the armed conflict in Gaza and other parts of the Middle East. There was a noted increase in anti-faith graffiti recorded from autumn 2024 onwards, which was also true for racist graffiti.
- There were 10 incidents of identified offensive graffiti relating to race in 2024/25, similar to the 9 recorded in the previous year. Incidents relating specifically to religion, as noted above, increased from 9 in 2023/24 to 39 in 2024/25.
- There were fewer than 5 examples of identified homophobic graffiti in 2023/24, slightly fewer than the 7 recorded the previous year. This was also true for transphobic graffiti, which were fewer in number in 2024/25 and remained lower than 5 annually.
- There were no reports of offensive graffiti relating to disability recorded by the city's environment teams in the previous two years.

Hate incidents against University of Sussex students and staff

- The University of Sussex collect data around the number of hate incidents reported to them by students and staff/visitors. In 2024/25, 24 reports were received from students, similar to the 27 reported the previous year but more than the 9 reported in 2022/23. While numbers were too small to complete any analysis of victim demographics, the 24 reports made in 2024/25 highlighted the wide range of demographic characteristics of reporters across gender identity, sexual identity, disability or health condition and religion/faith.
- In 2024/25 there were also 7 reports made to the university from either staff or visitors, slightly lower than the 10 reported the previous year and higher than the 4 received in 2022/23.

¹²³ These figures are based upon counting each instance of "offensive" graffiti once, with a predominating category of offence; in practise, graffiti can often be deemed offensive for more than one reason, influenced by individual perceptions of offensiveness. The number of offensive graffiti reports recorded are those reported to City Clean via the local authority's 'Report A Problem' facility.

Those cases observed and cleared by the council's Graffiti Team, the seafront office or environmental enforcement teams independently of any prior reports were not included in these figures.

Survey data

Health Counts

- The Health Counts survey in 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about hate crime. The survey provides important evidence of inequalities in parts of the city and faced by vulnerable groups.
- Of Black and racially minoritised respondents, 23% overall felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their ethnic heritage or religion, or perceived ethnic heritage or religion, compared to 4% of White British respondents. All ethnic groups had significantly higher proportions of respondents who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared to all respondents, but this was highest amongst Arab (40% who felt very or fairly worried), followed by Black, Black British, Caribbean or African respondents (36%).
- For refugees or asylum seekers, 44% were very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their ethnic heritage or religion, or perceived ethnic heritage or religion, compared with 8% of respondents who were not a refugee or asylum seeker. All religious respondents had significantly higher proportions who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared with all respondents, but this was highest amongst Sikh (69% who felt very or fairly worried), followed by Muslim (45%) and Jewish (43%) respondents. Respondents with no religion had significantly lower proportions who felt very or fairly worried about this type of hate crime compared with all respondents (5%).
- Of LGBTQ+ respondents, 30% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, compared to 3% of heterosexual or straight respondents. All LGBTQ+ groups had significantly higher proportions who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared with all respondents. This difference was particularly high amongst respondents who described their sexual orientation as queer; 50% of queer respondents felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. For gay or lesbian respondents, 38% felt very or fairly worried.
- Of trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) respondents overall, 67% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because they were trans, non-binary or present as gender divergent, compared to 2% of respondents who are not TNBI. This was significantly higher for trans respondents (74% felt very or fairly worried), and non-binary respondents (67%), as well as respondents who prefer to self-describe their gender (46%). Data for intersex respondents has been suppressed due to low numbers of respondents.
- Of disabled respondents, 11% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their disability or perceived disability, compared with 2% of respondents without a disability. This difference was significantly higher amongst all types of disability and conditions but was particularly pronounced amongst respondents who had a speech and language disability (50% felt very or fairly worried), a developmental disability (49%), a learning disability (45%), a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (42%), or autism/ autistic spectrum disorder or condition (24%).

Safe and Well at School Survey

- In 2023 the latest version of Brighton and Hove City Council’s Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS) was carried out with pupils aged 7 to 18 across the city in November and December 2023. One question asked by the survey related to whether children felt they had been bullied, and for what reasons.
- The table below shows the proportion of respondents to the 2023 Safe and Well at Schools Survey who have reported being bullied in the last term, split by the type of bullying.

Table 3 - Safe and Well at Schools Survey 2023 results on types of bullying, by Key Stage.

Type of bullying	Key Stage 2 (ages 8-11)	Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14)	Key Stage 4 (ages 15-16)
Racist	1.3%	2.1%	1.8%
Religious	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%
Sexual Orientation	1.4%	2.6%	2.3%
Transphobic	1.1%	1.1%	1.4%
Disability-Related	1.1%	1.9%	1.6%
Total respondents	5,807	4,942	2,860

- Compared to the previous 2021 version of the survey, all types of bullying at Key Stage 2 increased, while at Key Stage 3 most types of bullying also increased substantially, except for sexual orientation which decreased from 2.9% to 2.6%. In Key Stage 4, all the above forms of bullying increased significantly.

Figure 56 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting sexual orientation-related bullying, by survey year and Key Stage.

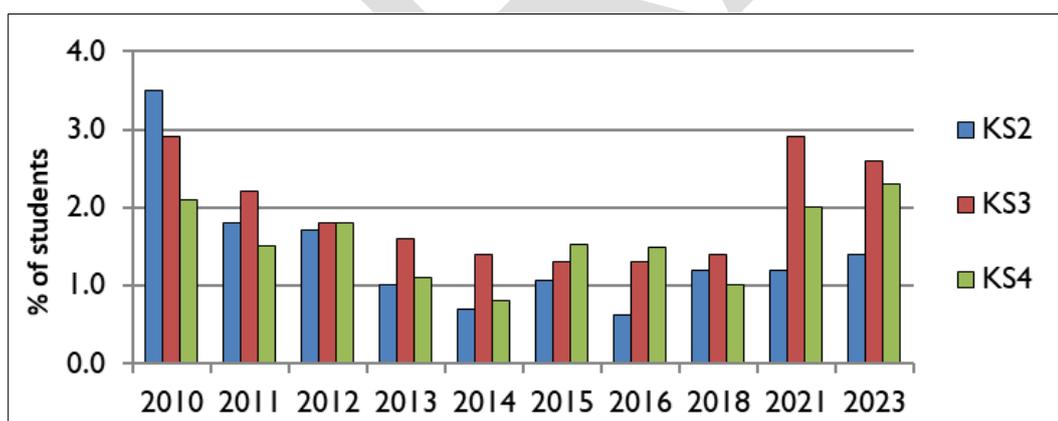
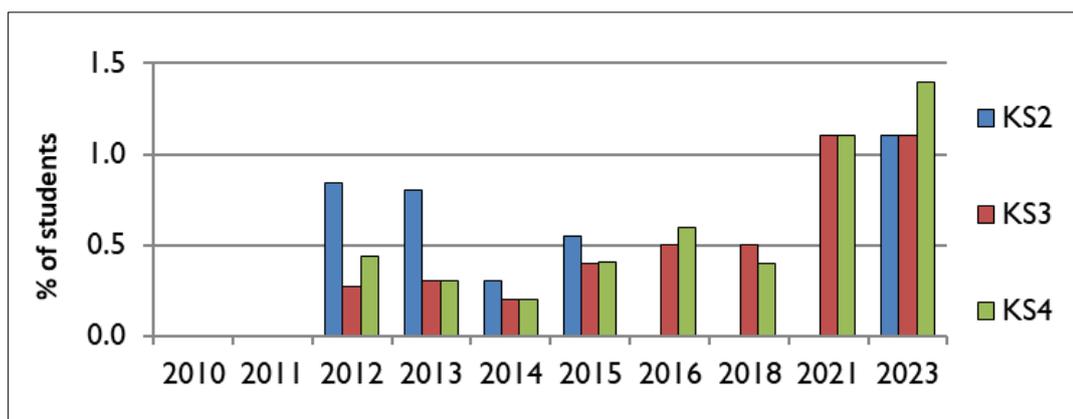


Figure 57 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting transphobic bullying by year, by survey year and Key Stage.



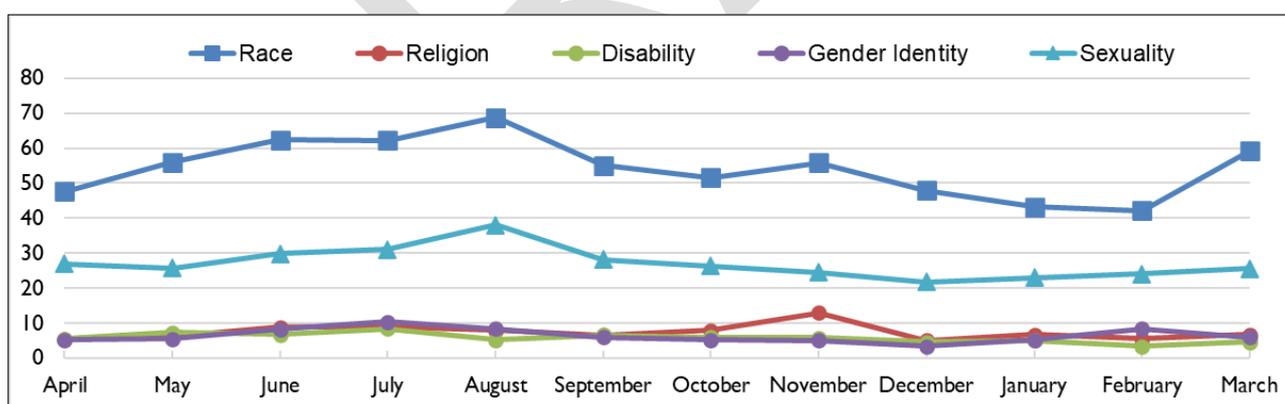
- Particularly in relation to sexual orientation and transphobic bullying, the latest two editions of the survey (2021 and 2023) have seen significant increases in the proportion of pupils reporting being bullied, shown in
- **Figure 56** and **Figure 57** respectively. These followed gradual decreases between 2010 and 2015 and slower increases in the 2016 and 2018 editions of the survey.

Nature of the problem

Police data

- Across most forms of police-recorded hate crime and incident, a seasonal pattern can generally be observed – as shown in **Figure 58** – with more crimes and incidents reported in the late-spring and summer months.

Figure 58 - monthly average pattern graph for hate crimes, by type, 2020/21 to 2024/25.



- Looking at hate incidents recorded by the Community Safety Casework Team, in 2024/25 the greatest number of hate incidents of all kinds took place in West Hill & North Laine, Kempton and Moulsecoomb and Bevendean wards.

Hate crime motivated by race

- In 2024/25, 60% of police recorded racist hate crimes were public order offences, 34% were violence against the person offences and 3% were arson and criminal damage offences. The remaining 3% of offences were made up of various other crime types such as robbery or theft offences.

****DRAFT****

- Data for 2024/25 shows a city-centre hotspot for police recorded racist crimes, located in an area including part of North Laine, the south lanes and Churchill Square, as well as Old Steine and part of Kemptown. This remains largely unchanged since previous analysis.
- The most common location types for police recorded racist offences were in a public/open place (40%), the most common of which was on the street, followed by inside a dwelling (18%) and at a shop (12%).
- There is no clear temporal pattern in police recorded racist offences, with offences distributed on all days of the week and throughout the afternoon and evening. There is a peak in offences between 15:00hrs and 16:00hrs on most weekdays, coinciding with the end of the school day. However overall, Saturday is the day with the highest peak in offences.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those racist hate crimes in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 68% of victims were male, 31% were female, and fewer than 1% were recorded as 'indeterminate'⁶⁶.
- The rate of victimisation for police recorded racist offences is highest for males aged 40-49 (4.0 per 1,000 pop), whilst for females the highest rate of victimisation is in the 30-39 age group (1.7 per 1,000).
- Victim ethnicity was unrecorded in nearly half of all police recorded racist offences in 2024/25 and therefore analysis of victim ethnicity is not possible.
- Of those offences where the relationship between victim and perpetrator was known, 75% were committed by a stranger to the victim, 23% were committed by an acquaintance, and fewer than 1% respectively were committed by an ex-partner, a work colleague, a current partner or spouse, or other family member.
- Sussex Police currently record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those racist hate crimes in 2024/25 (where offender sex or gender identity was recorded) 81% of victims were male, 17% were female, and 1% were transgender⁶⁶. Overall numbers are low, but the rate of offending is highest in the 40-49 year age group.
- Where information was recorded on offender residence, 59% of offenders charged with a hate crime motivated by race in 2024/25 were residents of Brighton & Hove, 23% had no fixed address, and 18% were resident outside of the city. However, overall numbers are low and caution should be used.

Hate crime motivated by religion or belief

- Of those police recorded hate crimes which were motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25, 66% were recorded as anti-Jewish, 20% as anti-Muslim, and 4% respectively as anti-Christian, 'anti-other' or where the religion was unknown. A further 2% were recorded as anti-Hindu. Some offences had multiple motivations against more than one religion or belief.
- Nearly two thirds (62%) of hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in this period were violence against the person offences, a further 30% were criminal damage offences, and the remainder were made up of a small number of other theft and handling offences, burglary, sexual offences and other offences.

****DRAFT****

- Repeat locations for police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25 include Queens Road, as well as Palmeira Square in Hove.
- Where location type was recorded, over half of offences took place in a public/ open place (54%), a further 22% occurred in a dwelling, 6% occurred in hospitality settings, and 5% respectively occurred in education settings, public buildings, or shops. Offences in commercial buildings or on moving transport made up the small remainder of offences.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. 51% (n=49) of victims were male, 49% (n=48) were female, however overall numbers are low, and caution should be used⁶⁶. Numbers are too low to analyse by victim age group or ethnicity.
- Of those police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in this time period where victim and perpetrator relationship was recorded, the majority were recorded by a stranger (79%) with a further 9% committed by an acquaintance.
- Due to low overall numbers, there is insufficient offender data to provide analysis on offender characteristics.

Hate crime motivated by sexual orientation

- In 2024/25, 65% of police recorded hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation were public order offences, and a further 33% were violence against the person offences, with the remaining offences a mixture of arson and criminal damage, robbery, sexual or other offences.
- The hotspot for police recorded hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation in 2024/25 is located in the city centre, in an area covering part of North Laine (as far north as North Road), the south lanes and Churchill Square, Old Steine, St. James's Street and adjacent Kemptown streets.
- Peaks in police recorded hate crime motivated by sexual orientation show some association with the night-time economy, with a higher number of offences overall over the weekend, and an elevated risk of offences on a Saturday night between 19.00hrs and 21.00hrs and again on a Sunday morning between 00.00hrs and 03.00hrs. There is also an elevated number of offences throughout Sunday evening.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 72% of victims were male, 25% were female, 2% were recorded as 'other', and 1% were transgender⁶⁶.
- Overall numbers when split by age and recorded sex or gender identity are low, but the rate of victimisation for men was highest in the 30-39 age group, and for women was highest in the 20-29 age group.
- Sussex Police currently also record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Overall numbers are low, but of those charged with a hate crime motivated by sexual orientation in 2024-25, 87% (n=73) are male, and 13% (n=11) were female. Offender numbers were too low for meaningful analysis of age or ethnicity⁶⁶.

- Where information was recorded on offender residence, 48% of offenders charged with a hate crime motivated by sexual orientation in 2024/25 were residents of Brighton & Hove, 30% were resident outside of the city, and 22% had no fixed address. However, overall numbers are low and caution should be used.

Hate crime motivated by gender identity

- Of those hate crimes motivated by gender identity in 2024/25, 52% (n=44) were public order offences, 44% (n=37) were violence against the person offences, and the remaining were either arson and criminal damage, or theft offences.
- Over half (52%) of hate crimes motivated by gender identity in this time period occurred in a public or open place, the most common of which was on the street. A further 21% of offences occurred in a dwelling.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate victim sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those hate crimes motivated by gender identity in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 26 had a female victim, 19 had a male victim, 18 had a transgender female victim, 7 had a transgender male victim, and 7 were described as either 'other', or 'indeterminate' ⁶⁶.
- 74% (n= 61) of all police recorded gender identity motivated hate crimes in 2024/25 were committed by a stranger, and 24% (n=20) were committed by an acquaintance.
- Numbers are too low to analyse by victim age group or ethnicity or to provide analysis of offender data.

Hate crime motivated by disability

- Disability motivated hate crimes follow a similar pattern to other types of hate crime, with a majority being either public order or violence against the person offences.
- Overall numbers are low and so caution should be used, but there were 22 male victims of disability motivated hate crimes in 2024/25, 14 female victims and fewer than 5 transgender victims. Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate victim sex from gender identity in analysis⁶⁶. Numbers are too low for this crime type to analyse by victim age group or ethnicity.
- Disability motivated hate crimes during this period were more likely than other types of hate crime to be perpetrated by someone who was an acquaintance to the victim (53%), than by a stranger (40%).
- Numbers are too low to provide analysis of perpetrator demographics.

Data from other agencies

Business Crime Reduction Partnership

- Analysis from the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) highlighted that most incidents of hate reported by businesses took place during high-footfall periods specifically linked to the night-time economy, much of which was in the context of wider disorder. The BCRP noted that numbers of direct reports by businesses were low, suggesting significant

under-reporting; racial and homophobic abuse was most common, most often aimed at lone, vulnerable individuals and/or door staff at licensed premises.

- During the daytime, workers in fast food outlets — often younger, or female — frequently reported verbal abuse and hate speech to the partnership. More broadly, the BCRP notes its concern over an increase rise in hate-related language and abuse from young people — some as young as 10 — particularly toward retail staff, including racist and homophobic insults.

Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard

- Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard recorded 18 hate crimes from April 2024 to March 2025 from those accessing their support services.¹²⁴ Where the motivation for the incident was recorded, 5 were specifically recorded as motivated by sexual identity, and the remaining hate incidents were recorded as either motivated by gender identity, disability, or ethnicity – all recorded fewer than five times.
- There remains significant under-reporting of hate crime, and based on service user feedback and wider engagement, Switchboard report that barriers to reporting include:
 - Fear of being outed when reporting to statutory services or the police.
 - Mistrust of institutions, especially among trans and non-binary individuals who have experienced poor treatment or dismissal in the past.
 - Normalisation of abuse, particularly among younger or intersectional individuals who do not recognise hate incidents as reportable.
 - Concerns about escalation or being disbelieved.
 - Lack of visible pathways to report in safe and identity-affirming spaces.
- Over the past three years, Switchboard report they have observed the following amongst their service users:
 - Increasing fear among TNBI individuals about being seen accessing services.
 - A rise in online hate, including doxxing and targeted abuse following visibility campaigns or Pride events.
 - A shift from isolated incidents to cumulative low-level harassment, particularly affecting trans women and non-binary people in public spaces.
- Switchboard also express concern that wider societal and legal developments in recent years, such as the UK Supreme Court ruling, and increasing media rhetoric and political discourse targeting LGBTQ+ communities have compounded these barriers to reporting.

The Clare Project

- The Clare Project, who work with trans, non-binary, gender-variant and gender-questioning people in Brighton and Hove report that incidents reported to them by service users range from verbal abuse, misgendering, being excluded from spaces (for example changing rooms or

¹²⁴ This includes helpline calls, one-to-one sessions, and reports from their domestic abuse, trans and non-binary (TNBI), and older persons services.

sports teams), physical attacks, online harassment, offensive stickering/posters/graffiti, and incitement of hatred towards TNBI people.

- Barriers to reporting to statutory services for The Clare Project service users include: mistrust of the police or council; fear of being misgendered; fear of not being believed or being accused of provoking an incident; fear of jeopardising other council support (for example housing or social care); fear of being referred to mental health services/being sectioned; a belief that hate crime is just 'something you have to put up with'; fear of wasting police/council time; fear of having to come out as TNBI in order to explain the reason for the report; lack of confidence that reporting will achieve anything; confusion around the pathways for reporting; and a lack of understanding of what counts as a hate incident.
- The Clare Project report that particularly since the recent Supreme Court ruling and EHRC guidance that the fear and impact of hate incidents has increased, as well as the confidence of perpetrators to commit hate incidents against TNBI communities.

Resources and gaps

- The Community Safety Partnership continues to monitor relevant intelligence and community tensions given national and international conflicts and coordinates a partnership operational response.
- The Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss complex cases with the highest levels of risk and assessed vulnerabilities.
- We continue to signpost and publicise reporting mechanism for reporting hate incidents and to encourage reporting of all hate incidents.
- Established specialist LGBTQ+ support agencies, including Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard and The Clare Project continue to provide vital reporting pathways, advocacy and support services. Allsorts Youth Project's dedicated support for LGBTQ+ young people under 26, provides crucial support for a particularly vulnerable demographic. These organisations safe, affirming services encourage greater disclosure and reporting of hate incidents compared to statutory routes.
- Despite the best efforts of these services the withdrawal of council funding to support third party reporting has resulted in reduced support for the reporting of hate incidents, with a support for the reporting of transphobic hate crimes being identified as a particular gap in provision.
- Partners also report heightened fear in the Trans and Non-Binary communities of further escalation in transphobic hate crimes as a consequence of the Supreme Court ruling and impending revised EHRC guidance on TNBI services.

Summary of key issues

- Budgetary pressures will likely cause further cuts to non-statutory services, many of whom significantly contribute to partnership working to address hate incidents.
- Continued and escalating divisive narratives and international conflict continue to impact locally on community cohesion and community tensions. With specific areas of concern being the targeting of migrants, especially those accommodated in Home Office accommodation.

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- Against this backdrop, Brighton and Hove has experienced rising levels of hate incidents and crime motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The only area that hasn't seen an increase in reported hate incidents and crimes are those motivated by disability, but as these are low in number this may not be statistically significant so is no grounds for complacency.
- The city has seen significant rises in the levels of antisemitism and islamophobia. With the recent arson attack on the Peacehaven mosque, which is not within the city borders but is immediately adjacent, there is reason to be concerned about rising severity of these incidents.
- The city has also experienced more public, more frequent and more aggressive expressions of homophobia and transphobia.
- With the TNBI and wider LGBTQ+ communities already feeling targeted and put at greater risk by the Supreme Court ruling, the council will need to balance how it responds to and implements revised EHRC guidance on TNBI services to both meet its statutory obligations while simultaneously maintaining the trust of and providing support to these communities. Failure to achieve this balance risks breaching relationships with these communities, compromising the council's ability to extend to them the support it would wish to and undermining their confidence to report hate incidents.
- The reduction in third party reporting capacity makes the council more dependent on the reporting of hate crime to the Police to gauge both trends in and prevalence of hate crime and incidents. However, the threshold for an incident to become a crime is higher than that of a reportable incident, which still causes harm and fear to the victim. This risks an under estimation in the volume of hate crimes and incidents and an under appreciation of the harm and fear caused to affected communities.
- It is important to recognise that Brighton & Hove attracts significant numbers of visitors from outside of the city, some of whom will perpetrate hate crime or incidents. Local analysis suggests that approximately 20-30% of those charged with a hate crime motivated by the sexual orientation or race of their victim reside outside of Brighton & Hove.
- The core challenge going forward will likely be how the council and partners best meet the dual challenge of this rising tide of hate incidents and crime, in many ways fuelled by influences beyond the boundaries of the city and local influence, while having to contend with reduced resources for doing so. This will require innovations in practise and community partnership that are able to harness resources beyond those the council is able to directly provide.

Recommendations for partnership work

- The focus of the Community Safety Partnership will be to continue to ensure that it is doing all that it reasonably can to:
 - address hate incidents.
 - encourage reporting of hate incidents.
 - provide alternatives to reporting hate incidents to statutory agencies.
 - challenge divisive narratives.
 - improve community cohesion.

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- The Community Safety Partnership will continue focused work to strengthen links between diverse communities and reduce tensions.
- The Community Safety Partnership will seek to better engage with businesses to promote inclusion and cohesion by better identifying and challenging hate incidents, especially those perpetrated by non-resident visitors to the city.
- The Community Safety Partnership will, within available resources, explore new and innovative ways to encourage and support third party reporting of hate incidents, with a particular focus on how to encourage reporting in the night time economy, the potential development of third party reporting ambassadors to support and encourage reporting and developing mechanisms for third party reporting through community services such libraries, GP surgeries and community centres.
- The Community Safety Partnership will further encourage the reporting of hate incidents by promoting a better understanding of what constitutes a hate incident and recognition that an incident doesn't have to cross the threshold of becoming a crime to be usefully and legitimately reported.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue implementation of the Brighton and Hove Anti-Racism strategy.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to offer training and briefings to hate incident practitioners across the city, encouraging a harm led approach making the best use of tools and powers available, whilst also promoting the ASB/Hate Incident Case Review procedure.
- Brighton & Hove City Council Community Safety Team will continue to work closely with colleagues in International Migration Services as part of the recently established Community Cohesion Service regarding placement of asylum seekers in hotels and the Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme, to ensure that potential community tension is monitored and responded to when necessary.
- The Joint Action Group (JAG) will continue to identify and respond to emerging hate incident concerns in geographical locations in the city, whilst the Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will assess our high-risk and complex hate incident cases, ensuring a multiagency plan is in place to address and reduce the harm caused.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, prioritising the removing of offensive graffiti and targeting Hate graffiti offenders for enforcement.

11. Prevent

Introduction

The Prevent programme is a UK Government initiative focused on stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent aims to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, by working in partnership to disrupt and reduce the influence of radicalisers on susceptible audiences and to reduce the availability of, and access to, terrorist content.

Prevent seeks to intervene early and ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation to terrorism are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes. Channel is a voluntary support programme where multi-agency panels assess the extent of an individual's susceptibility to radicalisation and whether a tailored package of support is necessary and proportionate to address the risk.

The third aim of Prevent is to enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate. Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism.

Terrorism threat: national

- The UK terrorism threat level¹²⁵ remains unchanged at 'Substantial' – meaning 'an attack is likely' since 9 February 2022.
- In December 2024, the Home Secretary¹²⁶ updated that Al-Qaida (AQ) or Daesh and affiliated ideologies continue to be identified as the primary threat to the UK, accounting for approximately 67% of attacks since 2018, about three quarters of MI5 caseload¹²⁷, and 61% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences. Extreme-right-wing terrorism (ERWT) drives the remainder of the threat to the UK, accounting for approximately 22% of attacks since 2018, about a quarter of MI5 caseload and 30% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences.
- The threat from self-initiated terrorism with online pathway continues to be significant.
- In October 2025, the Director General¹²⁸ of the security services in his annual update enunciated on the profound change in covert threats, with a 35% increase in the number of individuals under investigation for involvement in state threat activity in one year. A rapid growth in threat from hostile states present the most complex threat picture. Autocratic regimes are increasingly extending their repression at home to aggression overseas, using proxies, including private intelligence operatives and criminals from both the UK and third countries.
- The UK faces a varied and persistent terror threat. Presently, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. In a step change in terrorist threat, five terrorist incidents took place in the UK in 2017, and the terrorism threat level was twice raised to 'Critical' (highest level, meaning an attack is imminent). Since 2017, thirteen further terrorist incidents have occurred, the most recent in October 2025 in Crumpsall, Manchester.

¹²⁵ [Security Service MI5 webpage - terrorism threat levels](#). Threat levels are subject to change as new information becomes available.

¹²⁶ [UK Parliament webpage - statement on Preventing Radicalisation, 17 December 2024](#).

¹²⁷ [Security Service MI5 webpage - latest threat update, 8 October 2024](#).

¹²⁸ [Security Service MI5 webpage - latest threat update, 16 October 2025](#).

- On 2 October 2025, Jihad al-Shamie, a 35-year-old British man of Syrian descent killed one person when he drove his car towards the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation before exiting his vehicle and attacking civilians with knives. Targeting a synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar, with a high number of Jewish worshippers heightened the impact of the terrorist incident and community concerns about rising antisemitism.
- The threat picture is complex, evolving, and enduring, with terrorists choosing to attack a broad range of locations.
- Additionally, nineteen late-stage terrorist plots¹²⁸ were successfully disrupted by the police, security, and intelligence agencies in the UK since the start of 2020. MI5 and Counter Terrorism Police are working on more than 800 live investigations currently.
- The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) works to identify, and investigate, those responsible for the proliferation of terrorist content online. CTIRU works with platforms to stop harmful material being posted, remove it when it appears, and divert people away. Over 11,000 referrals were made to the CTIRU in 2024 and over 1,800 referrals by 12 February 2025.
- Three organisations - 'Russian Imperial Movement' (RIM), 'Maniacs Murder Cult' (MMC), and 'Palestine Action'¹²⁹ – were proscribed in 2025, effectively from 5 July 2025, bringing the total number of proscribed organisations in the UK¹³⁰ to 84. Members of the proscribed groups or those who invite support for proscribed groups could be jailed for up to 14 years and/or face an unlimited fine.

Terrorism threat: local

- The threat from self-initiated terrorists continues from various extremist perspectives, with Daesh, Al-Qaida and right-wing propaganda continuing to inspire attacks. A couple of residents from the city were successfully prosecuted for failed terrorist plots in 2022 (an AQ inspired terrorist plot to kill a Christian preacher at Hyde Park Corner) and in 2023 (an ERW motivated plot to target a local synagogue). Concerns around online influences drawing individuals to all forms of terrorism continue, with the movement from online activity and spaces to offline activity and harm to public safety seen in both the Self-Initiated Terrorists failed plots.
- The risk of support for proscribed organisations in the international context (Israel/ Palestine violence that expanded to other areas in the middle east) has been evident with three arrests¹³¹ in the city for allegedly supporting ' Hamas', and a further allegation of a ' Hamas' supporter visiting the university encampment in 2024.
- With the number of terrorist arrests and convictions in the city, community release of terrorist offenders continues to be likely and will need to be managed. The impact of terrorism arrests,

¹²⁹ The proscribed group 'Palestine Action' had challenged the proscription in the High Court. In February 2026, the High Court ruled in favour of the group, however, at the time of writing, the group is still proscribed until further legal processes are concluded.

¹³⁰ According to the Home Office data, 84 organisations are currently proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 (including all those mentioned in this document) as at the time of writing, plus 14 organisations in Northern Ireland that were proscribed under previous legislation.

¹³¹ [BBC News webpage, 29 November 2024. Terrorism charge over man's online comments.](#) and [Sussex Express webpage, 23 April 2025. Sussex man charged in connection with terrorism and criminal offences.](#)

investigations, and releases on communities in the city need to be managed to ensure continued resilience.

- Extreme-right activity in the city is noted from the full spectrum of extreme-right groups ('cultural nationalism', 'white nationalism', and 'white supremacism'). Unsolicited leafleting, posters, and graffiti were reported, particularly during the racist and anti-migrant violence exploiting the Southport tragedy. Some cultural nationalist actors and media have continued to use disinformation, and conspiracy theories to promote their anti-migrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-minorities agenda. Targeting of establishment/ authorities to promote distrust in authorities is noted locally. Migration, asylum, and LGBTQ+ issues as topical issues continue to be exploited by the ERW. Antisemitic graffiti by extreme-right groups were also reported in the city. Antisemitic tropes form part of the core narratives of some terrorist ideologies, for example, White Supremacist narratives.
- Increased risks are noted from accessing online materials, forums and influencers, social media, online and gaming platforms from across the spectrum of extremisms and ideologies. Online forums and communities not only provide an environment where it is possible to consume ideology, but they also provide materials or practical enablers of terrorist activity, create networks of like-minded peers, create an echo-chamber and facilitate offline interactions. Individuals may also move from being a consumer of online content to disseminating and producing online content. Violent online content and games are reportedly desensitising individuals to violence.
- All of this combines to paint a picture of a sustained and high tempo threat, and a whole society approach is required to effectively tackle terrorism. Cooperation and partnership working between communities, councils, police, and statutory and voluntary services is crucial in countering terrorism and building resilience.

National and local context

- Several macro/structural factors are likely to impact, increase demand, complexities, and potentially drive people into extremism and terrorism: growing multipolarity and intensifying strategic competition between states—and with non-state actors—for political, military, economic, and technological power; geopolitics (for example Russia/ Ukraine war, Israel/ Palestine violence), global uncertainty (cost of living issues, economic downturn, rise of the far right in Europe), climate change, migration, instability and conflict with more frequent humanitarian disasters, threats emanating from hostile states, increased communication, and the ever-expanding data environment.
- Following the Hamas attack in Southern Israel (7 October 2023) and escalating Israel/ Palestine violence, significant increases continue to be reported in both antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents in the UK, both online and in communities, with significant impact on the communities both locally and nationally. Different extremist groups continue to exploit Israel/ Palestine violence, Israeli military actions, and the scale of death and destruction in Gaza, to amplify grievances, and this may increase exposure to narratives that can be used to radicalise. The divisive narratives and activities seen in increased community tensions require increased engagement and work with communities to understand concerns, reassure, prevent escalation, and mitigate risks. Increased polarisation of views/positions and politicisation also increases

complexity with competing interests and demands on statutory partners with an impact on trust and confidence in our local communities.

- The risk that international events could directly trigger terrorist action in the UK were seen in the knife attack and murder in Hartlepool in 2023¹³², motivated by Israel/ Palestine violence. The case highlighted unpredictable ways in which existing views and grievances, online/ media influences, and potential impact of international events/ violence may interact.
- Anti- asylum/ anti-migrant sentiments are exploited by extreme-right wing actors and groups to promote a range of narratives directly related to their core doctrine: that the presence of asylum accommodation is evidence of the 'Great Replacement' conspiracy taking place, that asylum accommodation residents present a 'risk' to the public through 'terrorism', 'sexual offending', and general criminality, thus promoting distrust in government/ democracy (for example, failure of policy and multi-culturalism).
- The role of online disinformation and misinformation in promoting violence was highlighted in the racist, anti-migrant, and anti-Muslim violence that exploited the Southport attack. Violence against migrant communities in Ballymena (June 2025) and recent demonstrations outside hotels accommodating asylum seekers (July 2025) similarly exploited 'protecting White children and women' tropes by presenting migrants as a 'threat' within the context of 'othering'. Normalisation of anti-migrant and racist discourses within politics and media is leveraged to exploit local issues by national actors, to raise their profile, funds, increase support base, radicalise and recruit.
- The anti-migrant and anti-Muslim activities (protests, discourses, social media) nationally and the impact these have on local communities are likely to see an upward trend. This is also within the context of community concerns that asylum issues are 'politicised', and asylum seekers are increasingly becoming targets of hate crimes and incidents in general and direct action by the extreme right.
- On 4 October 2025, Peacehaven mosque was targeted whilst a couple of worshippers were inside. Two individuals were arrested for arson with intent to endanger life, and the attack heightened concerns about Islamophobia in the communities. The mosque was previously targeted following the Southport attack. Nationally 25 Mosques were attacked in 27 incidents at 23 locations between July to October 2025¹³³, with some suggesting that mainstream visibility of nationalist and extreme right campaigns helped normalise or embolden anti-Muslim behaviour in local contexts.
- The city has a high level of single issues groups, with high level of protest activities. Their membership or protest activity causes tension within certain communities and provides a fertile ground for exposure to particular narratives and engagement factors.
- International and national incidents continue to have local impact and affect inter-community relations. Anti-Muslims, antisemitic, anti-migrant, anti-LGBQ+ and TNBI, anti-minorities, and anti-establishment narratives are also being seen in referrals, in community sentiments following incidents, some media and social media. The cumulative impact of the various

¹³² [BBC News webpage, 17 May 2024. Street killing of pensioner 'terrorist act' - judge.](#)

¹³³ [British Muslim Trust webpage. Research Report - A Summer of Division, October 2025.](#)

international and national conflicts has given rise to a narrative where communities are worried about increased Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-migrant views. This may contribute to grievances that could be exploited to radicalise, recruit, and raise funds, especially within the context of the pre-existing 'victimisation narratives'.

National Policy

- Prevent Learning Reviews¹³⁴ (PLR) of two high-profile attacks, the murder of a sitting Member of Parliament in 2021 and a mass casualty incident in Southport in 2024, have highlighted both the programme's importance and its challenges. Several years before their respective attacks, both the perpetrators had been referred by their schools to Prevent. PLR into these cases revealed systemic gaps in risk assessment and case management, prompting significant reforms to strengthen multi-agency coordination and follow-through.
- Nationally, reforms to the Prevent programme included a review of Prevent thresholds and case management, the introduction of a Prevent Assessment Framework (PAF) in September 2024 to provide a more tailored, consistent, and professional-judgement-driven tool for assessing individuals at risk of radicalisation and a Clinical Consultancy Service (April 2024 after 6 year pilot) to improve health outcomes for people who are already subject to Counter Terrorism Policing interventions. Formal evaluation of PAF is expected to continue throughout 2025-26.
- On 21st January 2025, Lord David Anderson KC was appointed as the Interim Prevent Commissioner and was asked by the Home Secretary to examine the interactions of both attackers with Prevent, review the measures already taken to address the failings that their cases exposed/ recommendations from the PLR, and suggest any further improvements¹³⁵.
- The Home Office reviewed Prevent thresholds in 2025, conclusions are yet to be published. The William Shawcross Review (February 2023) had queried whether a disparity exists in the way ERW and AQ/ Daesh affiliated referrals are handled. The Home Office review in 2025 to establish if such a disparity exists had varying findings. Quantitative analysis found that AQ/ Daesh affiliated cases were more likely to be triaged out of Channel, including escalation to police managed space or Pursue. However, qualitative analysis found no evidence of different thresholds being applied to cases at the Channel Panel stage, and no evidence that AQ/Daesh type referrals discussed at Panel present a more active risk than ERW cases.
- Lord Anderson reported on lower consent rates for Channel support for AQ/ Daesh type of referrals. This may offer partial explanation for the above findings. The disparity review and consent issues will require further work.
- The perpetrator of the Southport incident was referred three times to Prevent, on each occasion, the referral was assessed by Counter Terrorism Policing, but in each instance, there was no onward referral to specialist Channel support. The 'Prevent Learning Review' during the summer of 2024, concluded that the referrals should not have been closed, and that cases such as these, given his age and complex needs, should be referred to Channel. In assessing risk,

¹³⁴ Prevent Learning Reviews are undertaken where a terrorist attack or serious violence offence has been committed by someone with prior involvement in the Prevent programme. The [Prevent Learning Review](#) was jointly commissioned by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Police in the immediate aftermath of the Southport attack.

¹³⁵ [Home Office webpage. Independent report from Lord Anderson - Lessons for Prevent, November 2025.](#)

too much emphasis was placed on the absence of an ideology, without recognising the significance of fascination with violence, and cumulative impact of three repeat referrals. Learning from these reviews has prompted several policy and operational initiatives.

- Following national learning about management of repeat referrals (Inquest into Forbury Gardens and the PLR) and referrals categorised as ‘fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks’, in March 2025 counter terrorism police updated policy to strengthen oversight and decision making of repeat referrals, risk management, and assurance.
- ‘Routes To Intervention’ is a new national project, launched in January 2025 to extend the support from ‘Channel’, Prevent, to those eligible recipients who are also the subject of an overt counter terrorism (Pursue) investigation concurrently. Previous guidance advised that access to Channel support would ordinarily stop or be closed to people who are subject of an investigation under UK terrorism legislation. The policy change has been agreed in response to the changing profile of those coming through the counter terrorism system requiring support and allows a key gap in available provision to be closed (for example, more minors are now being investigated, refer to Rhiannon Rudd Inquest below).
- In April 2025, the Home Office commissioned a national evaluation of Channel. The key objective of this evaluation is to assess whether Channel is effective at reducing individuals’ susceptibility to radicalisation. It will also explore how well Channel interventions are delivered and how the programme could be improved. Additionally, work is being done to widen the interventions available to Channel, practical mentoring and support is introduced in 2025.
- Addressing the broader question about ‘violence-fascinated individuals’, including those displaying high-risk behaviours without clear ideological alignment, the Interim Prevent Commissioners recommended that these should continue to be accommodated within the Prevent programme. The future permanent Prevent Commissioner may investigate whether Prevent should ultimately be embedded in a more general safeguarding and violence reduction strategy which is also recommended. Improvements in information sharing, engagement, responding to online risks, and public transparency are other recommendations by Lord Anderson.
- In March 2025, Jonathan Hall KC published his report, commissioned to review whether terrorism legislation is equipped to deal with acts of extreme violence. This concluded that the definition of terrorism does not need to be widened any further and recommended that the government should consider a new offence, adapted from terrorism legislation, to deal with non-terrorist mass casualty attack-planning.
- In April 2025, Justice Adrian Fulford was appointed as the commissioner into the public inquiry for the Southport murders. In the two phased inquiry that began immediately, the first will look at policing, criminal justice system, and agencies that were involved with Axel Rudakubana. The second phase will focus on wider issues of young people being drawn into extreme violence.
- In June 2025, an inquest¹³⁶ into the death of 16-year-old Rhianan Rudd who was groomed before being charged with terrorism offences, found that there were missed opportunities by CT Police, Prevent, County Council, and several mental health bodies in the period leading up to

¹³⁶ [Guardian webpage, 9 June 2025. UK teenager who killed herself was ‘highly affected’ by terrorism arrest, inquest finds.](#)

her death. At age 15, Rhianan Rudd was the youngest girl charged with terrorism offences in 2020 in the UK; Prevent support ceased with the charges for terrorism offences in line with the policy at the time. The charges were dropped in 2021 after the Home Office concluded she was a victim of exploitation. She took her own life at a children's home in May 2022. However, the inquest also found that no organisation bore the blame for Rudd's death, describing the teenager's investigation and prosecution for suspected terrorism offences as 'necessary and appropriate'. Early referral to the National Referral Mechanism, the body responsible for identifying potential victims of modern slavery, and mental health services for appropriate support were key aspects of findings.

Local policy

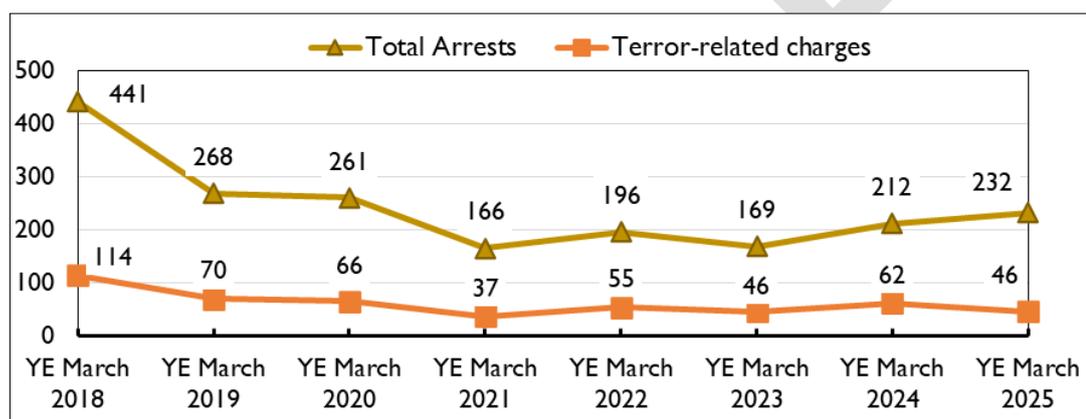
- The city is not a Prevent priority area, and mainstream budget continues to be identified for Prevent delivery to manage strategic risks for the city within reduced resources. Since 2009, the Community Safety team continues to deliver on Prevent in partnership with our communities.
- As part of the re-organisation to tackle financial constraints, Prevent and Community Safety functions have moved into a new structure. Prevent and Community Safety actions are referenced in the new Council Plan, and we continue to deliver services in line with the council's commitment through its 'Anti-racism strategy' and further work through 'Sanctuary Accreditation Plan' for the council to continue its commitment to be a City of Sanctuary. We continue to prioritise investment in the third sector with opportunities to create shared narrative and consensus on Prevent and community safety.
- The asylum provision in the city now has a couple of strands: the city is part of national asylum dispersal scheme, and since 2021 the Home Office have commissioned 'Contingency provisions' for single adults and families seeking asylum. Extreme right-wing groups/ influencers are likely to exploit the issue of asylum seekers and migrants in the city to promote grievances, increase support and gain purchase in the city.
- Budgetary challenges for the council and all public bodies create a cumulative impact in statutory partners abilities to resource and respond to community needs, staffing, and service delivery in the immediate future and long term. The picture is further complicated by the cost-of-living crisis, the growing economic difficulties that many people will likely face in future, specifically its disproportionate impact on minority and marginalised communities, and increased vulnerabilities and demands from communities on public resources. Overall economic inequality continues to shape attitudes and creates openings for division and offer the extreme right and other extremist groups their best hope to expand.
- In January 2025, following an expression of interest in the priority programme for devolution, the new Mayoral Strategic Authority for Sussex and Brighton is likely within the start of the strategy cycle, informed by the findings of the government-led consultation that concluded in March 2025.

Overview of scale and trends

Operation of police powers under 2000 Terrorism Act

- Home Office data¹³⁷ confirmed that 232 arrests were made across Great Britain for terrorism-related activity in 2024/25, 9% greater than the 212 arrests made in 2023/24. This continues to slowly reverse the previous long-term downward trend in terrorism arrests since 2017/18, as shown in **Figure 59**.
- From these arrests, 71 people were charged with an offence, of which 46 were terrorism related¹³⁸. The number charged for terrorism-related offences was fewer than the 62 the previous year, despite the increase in overall arrests in 2024/25. The most common charges were for preparation of terrorist acts (9 charges), dissemination of terrorist publications (8 charges) and collecting information useful for an act of terrorism (7 charges).
- A total of 109 (47%) of those arrested were bailed to return and released under investigation – as a proportion of all arrests, this is much higher than in any previous year, owing to recording changes by the Home Office, meaning the recorded number released without any charge (45, 19%) decreased significantly.

Figure 59 - Arrests made in Great Britain for terrorism-related activity, 2017/18 to 2024/25.



- Among the 232 arrests made in 2024/25:
 - 194 were male (84%) and 37 were female (16%) and 1 unknown (<1%). In 2024/25 there was a larger proportion of arrests of males than in the previous year (185 of 212 arrests, 87%), and proportionally fewer females (27 arrests, 13%).
 - 108 (47%) were aged over 30, consistently the most common age-group among those arrested and similar by proportion to arrests made in the previous year. Forty-three (19%) were aged 17 or under, continuing an increasing trend in the number and proportion of children being arrested for such offences. A further 12% of people arrested were aged 18 to 20 and another 12% aged 21 to 24.

¹³⁷ [Home office webpage - Arrests, outcomes, and stop and search outcomes under Terrorism Act 2000 and following legislation, 2024/25.](#)

¹³⁸ Terrorism-related charges and convictions include some charges and convictions under non-terrorism legislation, where the offence is considered to be terrorism-related.

- 113 (49%) were recorded as having White ethnicity, 61 (26%) recorded as Asian, 39 (17%) were of Other ethnicity and 7 (3%) recorded as Black, with the remainder unknown. Over the long-term, a greater proportion of arrests continue to be made of White suspects, proportionally fewer of Asian suspects and an increasing proportion of those considered of Other ethnic origin.

Terrorist prisoners

- As of 31 March 2025, there were 266 persons in custody for terrorism and terrorism-connected offences in Great Britain, the highest number since comparable records began (30 September 2020).
- Of those in custody, the majority (61%) were categorised as holding Islamist-extremist views; a further 30% were categorised as holding Extreme Right-Wing ideologies and 9% were categorised as holding other ideologies¹³⁷.

National referrals to Prevent

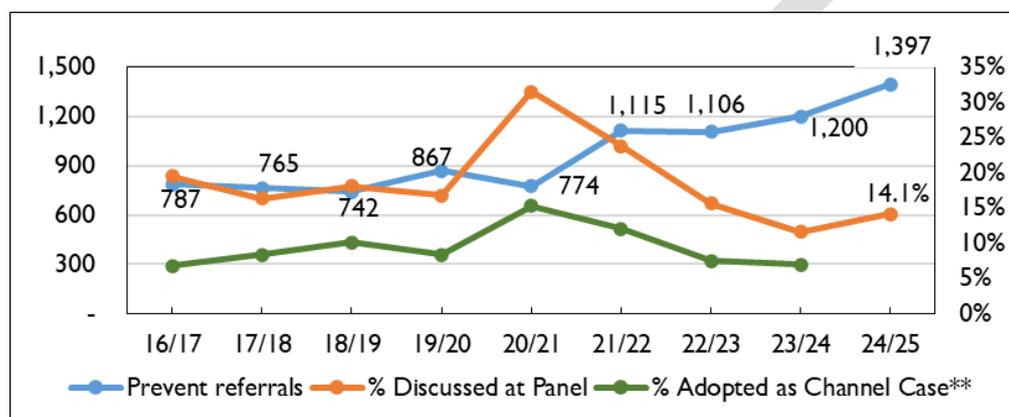
- Since the introduction of the Prevent duty in 2015, just under 6,000 people have been supported to move away from violent ideologies that could have resulted in harm to themselves, or others, or taken them down a pathway to terrorist offending.
- In the year to March 2025 there were 8,778 referrals to the Prevent programme¹³⁹, 27% more than in the previous year and the highest recorded since data collection began in 2015. From these, 1,727 (19.7%) were discussed at a Channel Panel and 1,472 (16.8%) were adopted as a Channel case, both also significantly higher than in previous years¹⁴⁰.
- Across Great Britain in 2024/25, the greatest proportion of referrals continue to come from Education (36%) and Police (30%) – Education made up a slightly smaller proportion of referrals compared with the previous year (40%), but with significantly higher numbers of referrals made. Local Authorities (10.2% in 2024/25) were a more common source for referrals than in the previous year (8.4% in 2023/24), while Health made up 989, or around 11%, of referrals to the Prevent programme in 2024/25.
- In 2024/25, 34% of Prevent referrals nationally related to people for whom a vulnerability is present, but with no identified ideology or counter-terrorism risk – the most common type of concern; 20% related to Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, and 18% related to people with no ideology but with some other susceptibility to radicalisation identified. Although not directly attributable to the Southport tragedy on 29 July 2024, an increased rate of referrals was noted following the Southport attack. Where there are ideological concerns, a reported increase in ERW threat and referrals is noted, and a decrease in referrals related to AQ/ Daesh and affiliated ideologies.

¹³⁹ [Prevent programme webpage - individuals referred to and supported by the programme, year ending March 2025.](#)

¹⁴⁰ In the 2024/25 data release, 'adoption' to Channel was defined as all those whom the Channel panel deemed suitable for Channel intervention, whether or not they later consent to participate. This means that Adoption figures for the latest release are not comparable to Adoption figures in previous releases.

- A greater proportion of women and minors were referred to Prevent in the year to March 2025 than in previous years, whilst the average age of those referred is lower than in past years.
- Among all cases discussed at a Channel Panel – irrespective of whether they were then considered suitable for adopting by the Channel programme - 39% related to a concern over Extreme Right-Wing ideology, 15% related to Islamist Extremism and 15% related to those with no ideology but other susceptibility to radicalisation identified.
- In the immediate aftermath of the 7 October 2023 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel, analysis of referrals to the Prevent programme in the remainder of 2023/24 showed only a marginal increase (under 1%) in cases being referred to the programme in the period 7 October 2023 to 31 March 2024 compared with the same period the previous year¹⁴¹. While the numbers of cases referred to the programme were substantially higher between 7 October and 31 December 2023 (1,926) compared with the same period in 2022 (1,691) and 2021 (1,756), the number of referrals this period as a proportion of each financial year remained very similar.

Figure 60 - Prevent Referrals and the proportion discussed at Channel Panels, or taken up as cases, in the South East, 2017/18 to 2024/25.



- In the South East, 1,397 referrals were made in 2024/25 - 16% more than in the previous year, as seen in **Figure 60** - from which 240 (17.2%) were discussed at a Channel Panel, and 197 (14.1%) formally adopted as a Channel case, with or without the consent of the referred person. All of these figures were higher than in the previous year.
- Among the 1,397 referrals made within the South East region:
 - 506 (36%) related to young people aged 11 to 15, the most common age group; in total, 771 (55%) of referrals were in relation to a person aged under 18, slightly lower than the 57% of referrals made the previous year. Among those discussed at a Channel Panel, 131 referrals (55%) were for people aged under 18, irrespective of whether they were taken up as a case suitable for Channel, while 109 (55%) of cases adopted as a Channel case were for those aged under 18, regardless of whether they consented.
 - Eighty-five percent of referrals referred to males and 9% to females (the remainder recorded as Other or Unspecified); among those adopted as Channel cases, regardless of their consent, 91% of referrals related to males, 4% to females and the remainder recorded as Other or Unspecified.

¹⁴¹ Home Office analysts cannot directly attribute any change in the trends to conflict-related factors.

- 587 referrals (42%) relate to people for whom no ideology but with some other susceptibility to radicalisation was identified; 368 (26%) related to people with no ideology identified, and 269 (19%) related to Extreme Right-Wing ideologies.
- Mental health and/or neurodiversity conditions were also recorded in 2024/25 for Prevent referrals¹⁴²; these conditions can be confirmed or unconfirmed. From the 1,397 Prevent referrals made in the South East, the most common mental health and/or neurodiversity condition recorded was Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (present in 194 referrals), followed by suicide risk (153 referrals) and self-harm (79 referrals). A further 134 referrals had an Other condition, meaning additional information was added as free text to a referral.
- The ethnicity of the person was specified in 366 (26%) of Prevent referrals in the South East. For those referrals where ethnicity was specified, 73% of referrals were recorded as 'White', 15% as 'Asian', 6% as 'Other' and 5% as 'Black'.
- Among the cases discussed at a Channel Panel in the South East region, irrespective of whether they were taken up as a case suitable for Channel, 36% related to those with an Extreme Right-Wing ideology, 32% related to people for whom no ideology but with some other susceptibility to radicalisation was identified and 13% related to people with no ideology identified.

Prevent Data for Higher Education

- In June 2025, new Office for Students (OfS) data¹⁴³ found the number of events or external speakers approved by universities and colleges increased from 39,475 in 2022/23 to 42,440 in 2023/24, with an accompanying rise in the number of events approved with conditions in place.
- The number of events or external speakers approved with conditions due to a Prevent-related risk increased from 15 in 2022-23 to 30 in 2023-24. These conditions include measures such as putting increased security in place, requiring tickets for attendance, and ensuring discussions are led by a chair. Conditions were placed on 1,410 external speakers and events in 2023-24 for non-Prevent reasons, up from 1,285 in 2022-23.
- The data includes information about their management of individual radicalisation cases and any underpinning ideology for each case. 'Mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies' accounted for the highest number of potential radicalisation cases that were escalated internally within an institution (90), followed by 'other' (70) and 'Islamist' (70), and 'extreme right-wing' (30). Of all the cases, 65 were subject to formal referral to external Prevent agencies.

¹⁴² Each referral could have more than one condition recorded, thereby the total does not equate to the total number of individual referrals. If someone has been referred multiple times and has a condition for one or more of the mental health / neurodiversity categories, each of the categories will be counted the same number of times that person has been referred. For example, if someone has been referred twice and has the conditions 'Anxiety Disorder – Confirmed' and 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder – Unconfirmed', they will each be counted twice.

¹⁴³ [Office for Students article, webpage. OfS publishes new data on Prevent, 2025.](#)

Nature of the problem

- Most of the thirteen attacks since 2017 can be described as 'inspired terrorism' (attack/attackers inspired by groups/ ideology rather than directed by terrorist groups in a command and control structure), all were carried out by 'self-initiated terrorists' or smaller cells, using low sophisticated methodology such as bladed weapons, vehicle borne attacks, mainly in public or crowded places, some committed by ex-terrorist¹⁴⁴/ offenders, use of fake suicide vests or emulating elements of previous terrorist attacks. Targeting of public servants or those representing the State/ establishment, use of Improvised Explosive Devices, and an unclear motivation were noted in some recent terrorist incidents. Targeting of public, crowded, or iconic places to maximise impact, has been further inflected to targeting a place of worship (for example a synagogue), on a religiously significant day (in this instance Yom Kippur), and targeting a specific section of society such as Jewish community as seen in the Manchester terrorist incident.
- The self-initiated terrorism threat is evolving, exploiting modern technologies such as 3D printing, and evading detection and disruption using alternative communication methods, including encryption services and livestreaming. 3-D printing has been noted as a feature of several ERW investigations¹⁴⁵ nationally in recent years and Daesh inspired/ affiliated case in December 2023¹⁴⁶. Livestreaming of attacks has been well documented since the Christchurch (a mosque & an Islamic Centre) shooting in March 2019 and is used as a 'performative' act to expand reach, intensify impact, and advance the 'supposed cause/ agenda'.
- 'Leakage' is an important indicator of self-initiated terrorist attacks and can range from admitting a desire to inflict violence more generally (for example the Dover attack perpetrator¹⁴⁷), to specific details involving a location, target, or weapon of attack. Individuals may leak their plans for several reasons: as a cry for help, or as a way of seeking increased media attention, or fame for their cause, or to inspire further attacks. The perpetrator of the Worcestershire attack was previously active online, espousing anti-immigrant rhetoric, and following the incident, arrested whilst posting his 'manifesto'¹⁴⁸ on X thus preventing further harm.
- Following the Synagogue attack in Manchester, disinformation in the form of antisemitic narratives and conspiracy theories were prominent, flexibly deployed by different types of ERW groups, and transcended across ideological boundaries for example AQ/ Daesh and affiliated ideologies. Furthermore, ERW groups and online audiences exploited the Heaton Park Synagogue incident to promote and reinforce anti-Muslim, anti-migrant, and anti-establishment narratives. Extremists from across the spectrum used the incident in pursuance of their own agenda, to reinforce grievances and promote victimisation narratives; for example, to criticise

¹⁴⁴ The attacks by prisoners inside HMP Whitemoor, the 2019 Fishmongers' Hall, and 2020 Streatham and Reading attacks by those on probation, demonstrate the significant threat that offenders may continue to pose both in custody and on release' (Contest 2023).

¹⁴⁵ [Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Counter Terrorism Policing South East press release, PDF.](#)

¹⁴⁶ [BBC News webpage, 22 December 2023. Mohamed Al Bared: Student jailed for life for building IS drone.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [Tell MAMA UK report, PDF. The Tangled Web of Far Right and Anti-Muslim Hate.](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Counter Terror Policing webpage, January 2025. Man jailed for life at Worcestershire terrorist attack.](#)

state and foster conspiracies of an establishment withholding information about violent attackers or putting migrants above 'White natives'. Fears were expressed that the incident may be used to suppress freedoms such as protests in the UK to highlight the Palestinian cause, or to target Muslims and minorities; concerns about media bias in reporting a series of Islamophobic incidents that occurred in early October in the UK were also seen in this context. These provide fertile ground for exploitation by terrorist and extremists to radicalise and recruit.

- Terrorists and extremists continue to exploit issues related to migration and asylum seekers in the UK. Migration in some of these discourses is solely referred to as Muslim or South Asian, thus promoting an anti-Muslim position that simultaneously creates distrust in political elites/ democracy. ERW actors exploit 'citizen journalism' to generate social media and online content, to get more media exposure to advance their 'agenda', including through misinformation, propaganda &/or activities often focused on hotels/ contingency accommodation or 'channel crossing', promoting conspiracy theories such as the 'great replacement', anti-establishment narratives, and a 'call for action'. A few recent terrorist incidents in the UK were motivated by anti-migration and anti-asylum narratives; for example, the Dover immigration centre attack in 2022 and the Worcestershire attack in 2024.
- The threat from Extreme-Right Wing Terrorism is growing and evolving, particularly through the radicalisation of increasingly younger individuals from dangerous online content.
- A growing number of minors are using the internet to plot terror attacks and recruit others to their cause. Potential young extremists have adopted a pick-and-mix approach to extremism, blending different forms of racism, misogyny and homophobia - gaining access to a wide variety of harmful and extreme content that would have previously been inaccessible¹⁴⁹.
- The pathways to terrorism are complex, and each person's journey is influenced by a unique combination of factors. There is no single profile of a terrorist.
- Ideology remains a crucial factor in radicalisation, as evidenced by analysis of material consumed by convicted terrorists. Extremist narratives consistently frame violence as a justified means of community defence or revival. The role of ideology remains varied, often intersecting with personal grievances, online echo chambers or psychological vulnerabilities. For example, research examining 6,000 individual items of 'mindset material' found in the possession of 100 convicted terrorists in the UK found that terrorists selectively engaged with ideological content to contextualise and legitimise their actions, rather than as a sole trigger¹⁵⁰.
- The risk factors for radicalisation can include personal vulnerabilities (for example, mental health issues, isolation), identity conflicts and exposure to extreme narratives, often online. Protective factors often include strong, positive personal and social identity and a resilient community that can challenge extreme narratives.
- Explicit affiliation with any specific terrorist organisation and fixed ideological alignment are diminishing. Adherence by terrorists to specific ideologies is in many cases less structured and coherent than in the past, reflecting in part the wide range of material available online from

¹⁴⁹ [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

¹⁵⁰ [Commission for Countering Extremism report webpage. Holbrook D, 2025. Sacred violence: the enduring role of ideology in terrorism and radicalisation.](#)

which individuals or small groups may draw. People may view both extreme right wing and AQ/ Daesh extremist instructional material, along with other bits of online hatred, conspiracy theories, and disinformation. Counter-terrorism efforts increasingly encounter a range of personal and ideological motivations to violence, where a traditional terrorist narrative may only be part of a much more complex picture.

- Conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence. The conspiracy theories pose potential threat when they and those who propagate them engender distrust in their audiences and encourage violence towards the government. Governments / establishments themselves are increasingly the focus of conspiracies. This antipathy or hostility towards the government's policies, representatives and officials, and democratic institutions in some instances can translate into violence or incitement to violence against the authorities including any institutions or individuals that comply with or implement the government's policies. The increasing sophistication and scale of disinformation operations presents real challenges for democratic states, increasing the risk of terrorism, inciting violence between groups with pre-existing tensions and posing longer term risks for public trust. People's relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future.

Resources and gaps

- Reduction in resources and budgetary pressures across partners and the public sector, within which mainstream funding must be found to deliver Prevent work and sustain best practice continues to present challenges. The cumulative impact of a sustained increase in demand on services across the public sector, as well as efficiencies made, has impacted partnership resources and the response to communities and client's needs. A combination of factors such as cost-of-living crisis, economic downturn, and client groups presenting with complex, multiple or compound needs are simultaneously driving demand and disproportionately impacting minority and marginalised communities.
- With devolution, mayoral elections, and local government reorganisation across Sussex, the level of flux and uncertainty has increased which may impact strategy development and action planning. In addition to the question of resources, location of Prevent and Community Safety functions, geographical boundaries/coverage in terms of risk assessment and development of partnership and community relations are indeterminate. The consensus on Prevent and our approach to delivery along with the shared narrative on Prevent with partners and communities will likely need revisiting and redeveloping to enable effective and impactful delivery.
- Work needs to address the issues of low referrals from communities and the third sector and to improve quality of referrals from partners. It is unclear if concerns with respect to all kinds of extremism are being understood across the partnership as these are not reflected in referrals.
- We also need to further develop models of productive partnership with communities and statutory partners to develop supportive interventions, particularly to improve support to individuals susceptible for example, due to their neurodevelopmental needs (for example on Autistic spectrum), and mental health issues.
- Online influences and technology are noted as key enablers and keeping pace with the fast-changing online risks and threats, ensuring staff awareness of those risks, and risk reduction work presents challenges.

- We have continued to support the educational sector across all key stages and continued to work with Outside of School Settings (OOSS) in the city. We will continue to support English Language Schools and supplementary schools/ faith institutions in future.
- Engagement of student unions with Prevent has been challenging nationally and this is also reflected locally in the city.
- Local reporting does not reflect some of the national trends in terms of higher levels of reported religiously motivated incidents collected by Tell MAMA and the Community Security Trust. The local landscape needs to be better understood, communities better engaged and empowered to improve Prevent delivery.

Summary of key issues

- Terrorism threat is developing and becoming more complex and diverse in the UK. Presently, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. There have been eighteen terrorist incidents since March 2017 in the UK, with nineteen further terrorist plots successfully disrupted by the police, security, and intelligence agencies in the UK since the start of 2020, with over 800 live counter terrorism investigations. Three organisations have been proscribed in the UK in 2025 with an increased number of arrests for proscription offenses nationally. Threats from hostile states have increased rapidly over the year.
- There were 232 arrests for terrorist-related activity in Great Britain in the year 2024/25, 20 more than the previous 12-month period (an increase of 9%).
- There were 8,778 referrals to the Prevent programme in 2024/25, highest numbers recorded in a single year, denoting 27% increase compared to the year ending March 2024 (6,922). 1,727 individuals (20% of referrals) were discussed at a Channel panel, and 1,472 individuals (17% of referrals) were adopted as a Channel case, the numbers are higher due to change in recording methodology (includes individuals who did not give consent). Although not directly attributable to the Southport tragedy, an increased rate of referral is noted following Southport attack.
- Key threats continue to arise from the self-initiated terrorists (individual/s who may be inspired by the rhetoric of groups or causes across all extremist perspectives to carry out attacks), extreme right-wing terrorism, Al-Qaida/ Daesh and affiliated or inspired terrorism, and online influences and online risks of radicalisation including gaming and gaming adjacent platforms. Technology is a key enabler of most modern threat.
- The risk from Self-Initiated Terrorists (S-IT) acting on their own or in smaller cells continues from various extremist perspectives, with Daesh, Al-Qaida (AQ) and extreme right-wing propaganda continuing to inspire attacks. The unpredictable and unconstrained operation of S-ITs make prevention more difficult and especially in view of the rise in referrals with no clear or coherent ideology, or no ideology in the city where fascination with violence, mass casualty attacks, and/or weapons is often reported.
- The extreme right-wing terrorism threat has grown with the online space providing a major platform for this growth. Increased reach of the ERW to young people is evidenced in prosecutions as well as Prevent referrals.
- Migration, asylum, and LGBTQ+ and TNBI identities as topical issues, continue to be exploited by the extreme-right. Anti-Muslim, antisemitic, and anti-establishment tropes continue to be

deployed by the ERW within the current fractious national politics. Following racist and anti-Muslim violence exploiting the Southport tragedy, and racist protests targeting asylum accommodations, the ERW are likely to exploit the normalisation of grievances aligned to their agenda, combined with conspiracy theories to enhance support for their cause, radicalise, recruit and inspire violent acts.

- People's relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future. The role and influence of social media and disinformation and misinformation have emerged prominently in people's perception of and trust in the government or authorities. Conspiracy theories pose a potential threat when they and those who propagate them engender distrust in their audiences and encourage violence towards the government, public or political figures.
- Al-Qaida (AQ), Daesh and associated terrorism concerns and referrals are likely to see an upward trend in view of their capitalisation of the Israel/ Palestine violence to their own ends and geo-political developments.
- Conspiracy theories and anti-establishment narratives may be used by all extremist perspectives to motivate and support terrorist violence. Partners continue to report concerns related to misogyny, and other INCEL content and report an increase in young men accessing this content. Young men on the Autistic spectrum are reported to be particularly vulnerable to this content. Fascination with violence, weapon and mass casualty are other emerging risks.
- International and national incidents continue to have local impact and affect inter-community relations.
- The city has a high level of single issues groups, with high level of protest activities. Their membership or protest activity causes tension within certain communities and provides a fertile ground for exposure to particular narratives and engagement factors.
- There is high value on communication to maintain professionals and communities trust and confidence in Prevent and to ensure that community referrals are appropriately made. With continuation of the anti-Prevent lobby, and Prevent in public debates and media, perception of public and communities, especially within some minority communities about Prevent fluctuates and needs to be continually engaged with.
- Prevent work has been delivered in the city since 2009 in partnership with our communities. The city was identified as a Prevent priority area and supported by the Home Office with dedicated posts and projects to mitigate strategic risks from April 2015 until March 2022. The city is no longer a Prevent priority area and Prevent delivery is being mainstreamed with reduced resources.

Recommendations for partnership work

- Based on the strategic assessment, there are no proposed changes to the outcomes for the Prevent local strategy over 2026-29.
- The Prevent landscape has seen rapid changes over the last strategy period, with continued national learning from inquiries (for example Southport) and inquests (for example Reading), Prevent learning reviews, ongoing Prevent programme reviews, Channel evaluation, and appointment to a permanent Prevent Commissioner's role in future. We will continue to reflect

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the national changes and align local delivery appropriately. We will continue to learn from the national best practice and focus on improving effectiveness and impact of Prevent delivery.

- We will continue to build on existing best practice in coordinating Prevent delivery locally, our successful engagement with diverse communities and partners, and mainstream Prevent work.
- We will continue work to understand threat, risks, and susceptibilities to being drawn into terrorism for the city in partnership with our communities and statutory partners and coordinate a partnership response to manage those risks. The Prevent action plan has been responsive to the emerging risks and trends and our delivery has been flexible, and risk based. The action plan will be amended annually in line with the strategic risks outlined in the counter terrorism local profile (CTLP) and the Brighton and Hove Prevent Risk Assessment. The terrorism threat picture drives high level decision making in all Prevent activity, and our response is proportionate to the threat picture in line with 'Security Threat Check' considerations.
- Since its inception, Prevent strategy and delivery has been embedded in strong partnership with communities and has adopted an anti-racist approach. Due to historical concerns about Prevent disproportionately impacting Black and Racially Minoritised and Muslim communities and damaging trust, the strategy re-commits to this approach. Since the start, local Prevent delivery has adopted an anti-racist approach and the Prevent Action Plan continues to be guided by the principles of proportionality, flexibility, and inclusivity. Empowered individuals and communities are at the heart of effective Prevent delivery. We will continue to have an effective dialogue with our communities on Prevent and improve partnership work and communications with communities to increase trust and confidence.
- We will continue to facilitate the Prevent Board to have oversight of risks and threats, assess impact of work, and monitor compliance with Prevent Duty. We will continue to ensure democratic oversight and scrutiny of the Prevent work, and work to improve transparency.
- We will continue work to safeguard and support individuals from being drawn into or supporting terrorism, support monthly Channel Panel meetings and ensure appropriate and effective support for individuals.
- We will continue to improve understanding amongst professionals of risks in the city, susceptibility to radicalisation, referral pathways and support available, and countering extremist and terrorist narratives through Prevent training and briefings, disseminating headline risks and factsheets on key local threats.
- We need to continually be aware of the international, national, and local critical incidents and assess their impact on community cohesion: polarisation of communities and creating fissures. We will work to understand community sentiments to prevent escalation of any community tensions, coordinate partnership responses to reduce its impact, and reassure communities around critical incidents in the UK and internationally. We will continue to facilitate the [One Voice Partnership](#) and work in partnership with our faith, Black and Racially Minoritised, refugee, and minority communities.
- With devolution and likely Mayoral elections in May 2026, continued political buy-in for Prevent across parties and communities, and shared understanding will need to be developed through Members engagement plan, as well as through the 'One Voice Partnership'.

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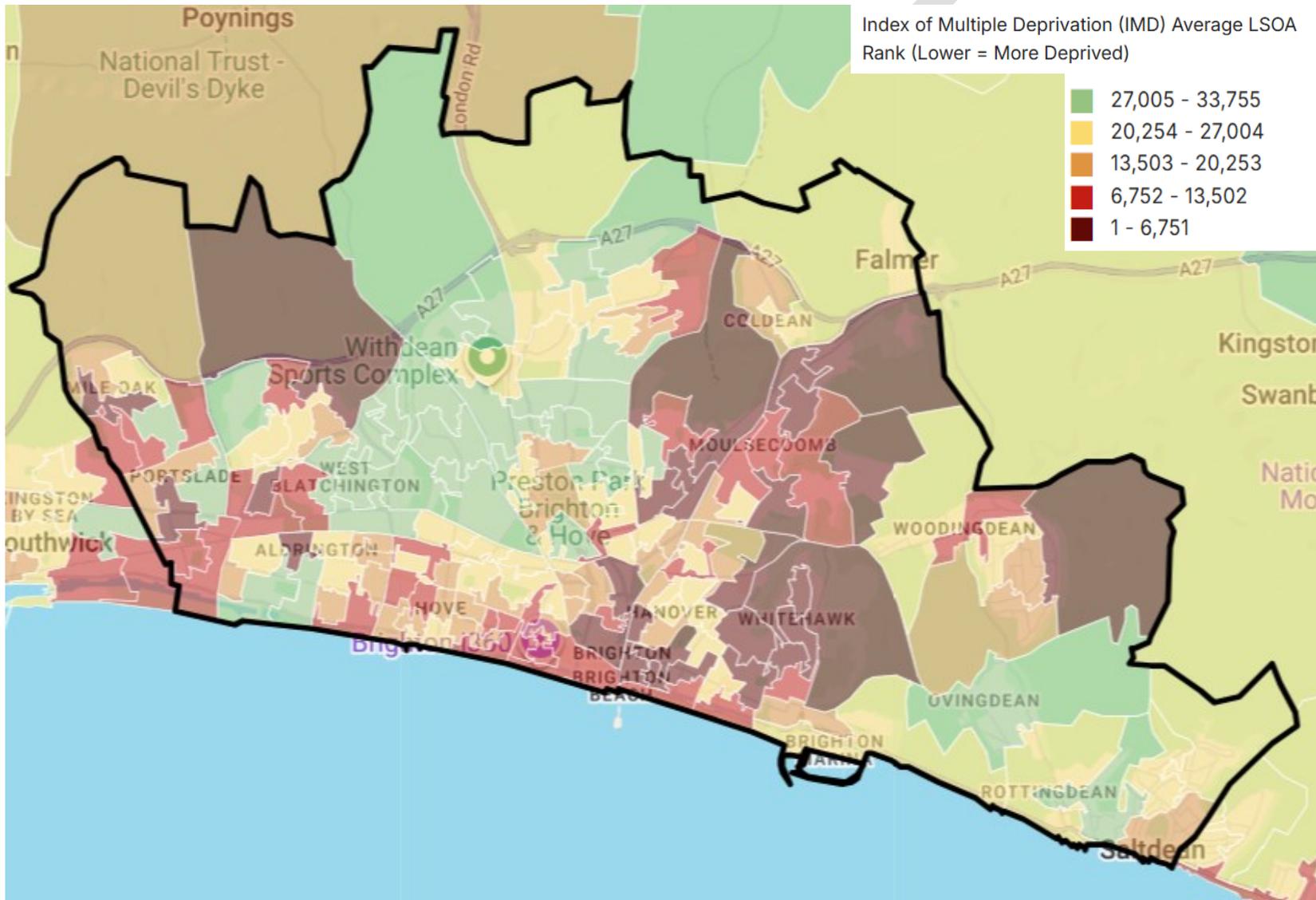
- Future policy and operational changes, although anticipated in the strategic assessment will benefit from revisiting, so we remain flexible and will respond appropriately in developing our strategy and action plan.
- We will work to re-energise structures to engage and work in partnership with our diverse communities, including the 'One Voice Partnership', to create a shared understanding on Prevent, deliver new trainings, and embed Channel Changes. Work to reduce the permissive environment and disrupt radicalising influences will continue to be focused on.

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12. Appendices

Appendix A: Multiple Deprivation Index 2025 for Lower Super Output Areas in Brighton & Hove



Appendix B: Note on police recorded crime and incident data

Important note about police recorded crime data

Please note that police recorded crime and incident data included in this report are an extract from Sussex Police live systems, in an unaudited and unverified raw format. These statistics represent a reflection of crime or incidents at the point of export and may not match information released directly by Sussex Police or other official published statistics.

Changes in police recorded crime over time (trends) are likely to be impacted by several factors. These may include improvements to recording processes and practices, introductions of new offences, variations in police activity, more victims reporting crime, as well as genuine increases in some types of crime.

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Appendix C: Crime statistics

	number of crimes 2023/24	number of crimes 2024/25 ¹⁵¹	2024/25 compared with 2023/24 (% change)
Police recorded crimes			
Total crimes	29,048	30,342	+ 4.5%
Criminal damage (incl. arson)	2,378	2,342	- 1.5%
Violence against the person	9,673	9,647	- 0.3%
Violence with injury	2,940	2,980	+ 1.4%
Public order	3,110	3,008	- 3.3%
Sexual offences ¹⁵²	1,208	1,289	+ 6.7%
Robbery	362	333	- 8.0%
Burglary	1,005	1,133	+ 12.7%
Vehicle crime ¹⁵³	1,469	1,304	- 11.2%
Theft from the person	501	504	+ 0.6%
Pedal cycle theft	754	607	- 19.5%
Total theft (excl. vehicle crime)	7,634	8,701	+ 14.0%
Police recorded incidents and crimes			
Domestic violence incidents and crimes	5,146	5,035	- 2.2%
Racist incidents and crimes	645	728	+ 12.9%
Religiously motivated incidents and crimes	126	150	+ 19.0%
Sexuality/LGB hate incidents and crimes	303	431	+ 42.2%
Gender identity hate incidents and crimes	93	105	+ 12.9%
Disability hate incidents and crimes	70	53	- 24.3%
All hate incidents and crimes	1,242	1,447	+ 16.5%
Anti-social behaviour incidents	4,871	5,365	+ 10.1%

¹⁵¹ Data are taken as a snapshot from a 'live database' and are subject to fluctuation over time.

¹⁵² Because there remains an emphasis on encouraging reporting of sexual offences, it does not necessarily follow that a low rank is 'good', and a high rank is 'bad'.

¹⁵³ Includes vehicle interference and aggravated vehicle taking

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Brighton & Hove
Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety, 2025

Email: community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

November 2025

Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership

General Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Support:

An [EIA toolkit](#), [workshop content](#), and guidance for completing an [Equality Impact Assessment \(EIA\) form](#) are available on the [EIA page](#) of the [EDI Internal Hub](#). Please read these before completing this form.

For enquiries and further support if the toolkit and guidance do not answer your questions, contact the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) team by emailing Equalities@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk. If your request is urgent, please mention this in the subject line of your email so we can support as required.

Processing Time:

- EIAs can take up to 10 business days to approve after a completed EIA of a good standard is submitted to the EDI Business Partner. This is not considering unknown and unplanned impacts of capacity, resource constraints, and work pressures on the EDI team at the time your EIA is submitted.
- If your request is urgent, we can explore support exceptionally on request.
- We encourage improved planning and thinking around EIAs to avoid urgent turnarounds as these make EIAs riskier, limiting, and blind spots may remain unaddressed for the 'activity' you are assessing.

Process:

- Once fully completed, submit your EIA to the Equalities team by emailing the Equalities inbox and copying in your Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager (if one exists in your directorate), any other relevant service colleagues to enable EIA communication, tracking and saving.
- Your EIA will be reviewed, discussed, and then approved by the assigned EDI Business Partner and after seeking additional approval as appropriate for your EIA.
- Only approved EIAs are to be attached to Committee reports. Unapproved EIAs are invalid.

1. Assessment details

Throughout this form, 'activity' is used to refer to many different types of proposals being assessed.

Read the [EIA toolkit](#) for more information.

Name of activity or proposal being assessed:	Community Safety Strategy
Directorate:	Commissioning and Communities
Service:	Community Cohesion
Team:	Community Safety
Is this a new or existing activity?	Existing Activity
Are there related EIAs that could help inform this EIA? Yes or No (If Yes, please use this to inform this assessment)	No

2. Contributors to the assessment (Name and Job title)

Responsible Lead Officer:	Adam Salmon
Accountable Manager:	Richard Tuset
Additional stakeholders collaborating or contributing to this assessment:	Nahida Shaikh and Anne Clarke

3. About the activity

Briefly describe the purpose of the activity being assessed:

Under the **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**, Brighton & Hove City Council and its statutory partners are required to work together through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to formulate, publish and implement a strategy for reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, reoffending and substance misuse, and for addressing serious violence and community harm. The Act places a duty on responsible authorities to take community safety considerations into account in all relevant decision-making.

The **Counter Terrorism and Security Act, 2015**, places a statutory duty on specified authorities (including council and public bodies) 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism'. Additionally, local authority has the Channel Duty 'to identify, assess and support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism' and all other public bodies have the 'Duty to Cooperate' with the local authority regarding Channel.

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029 is the statutory mechanism through which these duties are discharged locally. It is informed by a Strategic Assessment of crime, harm, vulnerability and community safety risks, and is subject to regular review to ensure it remains responsive to emerging trends, legislative change and community need.

The Strategic Assessment highlights that harm in Brighton & Hove is increasingly shaped by cumulative disadvantage, place-based risk and repeat victimisation rather than isolated incidents. This EIA reflects that analysis by focusing on how structural inequality, deprivation, identity-based hostility and system barriers interact to produce disproportionate impacts for certain groups. The Strategy's emphasis on early intervention, place-based responses and integrated safeguarding is intended to address these patterns of harm rather than single issues in isolation.

Governance and accountability for delivery of the Strategy sit collectively with the **Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership Board and Prevent Partnership Board**, which provides strategic oversight, ensures compliance with statutory duties, and monitors performance through agreed partnership structures and thematic sub-groups. The Strategy is therefore a shared partnership plan rather than a council only document, reflecting the collective responsibilities of local authorities, police, health, probation, fire and rescue, and other relevant agencies.

The strategy is now being reviewed and developed for the period 2026-29 with an updated Strategic Needs Assessment, though the underlying strategic priorities remain the same. This review and refresh gives us an opportunity to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment which assesses, based on current knowledge and available demographic data, the impact that the renewed Community Safety Strategy for Brighton and Hove may have on diverse protected characteristics and different communities.

Within this statutory and governance framework, the Strategy identifies five priority areas that reflect both national requirements and local evidence of harm and inequality. These priorities provide the basis for coordinated action, resource alignment and performance monitoring across the partnership over the lifetime of the Strategy.

1. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation
2. Domestic and sexual abuse and violence against women and girls
3. Anti-social behaviour
4. Hate incidents and crimes
5. Prevent (preventing terrorism and extremism)

The principle focus and/or changes arising from this review and refresh of the strategy are with respect to:

1. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

The Strategy strengthens the city's collective response to serious violence, drug-related harm and exploitation through coordinated delivery via the Violence Reduction Partnership and the Combating Drugs Partnership. Activity will prioritise prevention, safeguarding and early intervention, particularly for individuals and communities experiencing inequality, poverty and multiple complex needs.

A core focus is improving the identification and protection of vulnerable adults and children affected by criminal and sexual exploitation, including county lines activity, cuckooing and coercive control. The partnership will continue to embed contextual safeguarding approaches, strengthen use of disruption powers, and improve pathways for victims to be recognised and supported rather than criminalised.

Improved data quality and analysis - including on knife carrying, exploitation, substance misuse and disproportionality - will inform targeted, place-based interventions. The Strategy also strengthens communications and engagement to address fear of crime, improve reporting, and build trust with communities most affected by serious violence and exploitation.

2. Domestic abuse, sexual violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The Strategy sets out a whole-system commitment to preventing and responding to domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG in all its forms. This includes strengthening the coordinated community response, prioritising early prevention, improving support for survivors, and holding perpetrators to account.

VAWG is recognised as both an equality issue and a significant driver of health inequality. The Strategy reflects this by embedding trauma-informed practice, improving access to specialist support, and ensuring responses are inclusive of all survivors, including women, men, and trans, non-binary and intersex people. Particular attention is given to the intersection between VAWG, multiple disadvantage, substance misuse, mental ill health and homelessness.

Prevention activity includes education, public awareness, safer public spaces and improved professional practice across agencies. Delivery is aligned with national and local VAWG strategies and safeguarding duties, ensuring consistent, victim-centred responses across the partnership.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

The Strategy prioritises a balanced and proportionate response to anti-social behaviour that combines enforcement with prevention, support and restorative approaches. Delivery will continue to use the powers available under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014, guided by the principle of "putting victims first".

Operational coordination will be driven through multi-agency structures, including the Joint Action Group and ASB Taskforce, to target repeat perpetrators, high-harm locations and persistent issues on council

estates and in public spaces. Activity addressing ASB linked to public place drug use will be aligned with the city's Drug and Alcohol Strategy and wider work on Multiple Compound Needs.

The Strategy also emphasises early intervention with children and young people, strengthened engagement with businesses and the night-time economy, and improved communication with residents about thresholds, actions and outcomes. Learning from scrutiny and national policy changes, including the introduction of new Respect Orders, will be embedded into local practice.

4. Hate incidents and hate crime

The Strategy responds to a rising volume and complexity of hate incidents and crimes, recognising their significant impact on individuals, communities and cohesion. Delivery focuses on prevention, victim support, improved reporting, and effective partnership responses to both offline and online harms.

The Strategy acknowledges the role of national and international events in shaping local community tensions, including increased fear and harm experienced by Jewish, Muslim, Black and racially minoritised communities, LGBTQ+ communities, disabled people, migrants, refugees, and trans, non-binary and intersex residents. Addressing under-reporting, particularly following the loss of third-party reporting centres, is a key priority.

Activity will include rebuilding reporting pathways, strengthening data and intelligence, addressing online hate and misinformation, and supporting communities affected by heightened tensions. The Strategy aligns with the Council's Fair and Inclusive Action Plan and Anti-Racism Strategy, embedding equality, inclusion and cohesion into partnership delivery.

5. Prevent (preventing terrorism and extremism)

Prevent work aims to stop people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism. The Prevent Strategy sets out a whole system partnership approach to reduce the risk of terrorism and extremism by strengthening community resilience, improving early identification and support for individuals susceptible to being drawn into terrorism, supporting people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate, and enhancing frontline and institutional capacity to recognise and respond to evolving threats. Prevent addresses an increasingly complex and evolving threat and risk landscape; our delivery is risk based, proportionate, and flexible to respond to emerging risks.

Prevent delivery in Brighton & Hove is grounded in strong partnership with our communities and an explicit commitment to equality, proportionality, and anti-racist practice. The Strategy recognises concerns raised through consultation about trust and the potential for disproportionate impacts on some communities. The strategy emphasises transparency, trust building, and inclusive practice to rebuild confidence with communities. Strategy emphasises improved communication on Prevent with our communities and partners to create consensus, strong democratic oversight, and accountability.

Work also focuses on improving resilience to international, national, and local critical incidents, coordinate partnership responses to reduce its impact on community cohesion, reassure, and reducing harm to individuals and communities. Prevent delivery will remain aligned with statutory duties while adapting to emerging risks and national policy changes. Ultimately, it seeks to reduce harm, disrupt radicalising influences, and ensure that individuals, institutions, and communities across the city are equipped, confident, and supported to prevent terrorism and extremism.

Within Community Safety Partnership, the council works with police, health, probation and fire services, as well as other partners to deliver this strategy. However, the council's role and level of influence varies across different actions within the strategy. Some actions fall entirely within our direct control. In other areas, the council works collaboratively with partners through co-delivery of joint actions. In many cases, BHCC's role is to advocate for, encourage, or suggest action to partners, such as encouraging schools to

embed safeguarding approaches, advocating with police for victim-centred responses, or working with health services to improve mental health provision. This EIA focuses on the council's ability to take action under its direct control, while recognising the importance of partnership working to achieve shared community safety objectives. Where actions require partner engagement, the EIA clarifies what we can directly influence versus where partner decisions and resources determine outcomes.

What are the desired outcomes of the activity?

To improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits the city by focusing on:

- Taking early action to prevent crime and disorder
- Tackling the issues which have the biggest impact on people
- Reducing fear of crime and meeting the needs of victims
- Increasing trust and confidence in our communities
- Building and supporting resilience in our communities.

Which key groups of people do you think are likely to be affected by the activity?

Key groups that we'd anticipate would be disproportionately impacted as a consequence of this activity are disabled people, Black and Racially Minoritised communities, Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex, young people, women, looked after children and care leavers and those experiencing deprivation and poverty.

It is however important to note that the Community Cohesion Service and its constituent teams that deliver the Community Safety Strategy as a central component of their work maintain proactive engagement with the Black, Racially Minoritised, LGBTQ+ and Disabled communities and organisations supporting them as well as a range of services that support Women, young people and looked after children and care leavers. We maintain a number of forums and other contacts with these communities to, over and above the consultation on the renewal of the Community Safety Strategy development, support an open dialogue on the issues impacting or concerning these groups. This dynamic contact and feedback enables the services to better respond to the needs of our communities stakeholders and address identified equalities impacts.

4. Consultation and engagement

What consultations or engagement activities have already happened that you can use to inform this assessment?

- For example, relevant stakeholders, groups, people from within the council and externally consulted and engaged on this assessment. **If no consultation** has been done or it is not enough or in process – state this and describe your plans to address any gaps.

BHCC informally consulted with partners in finalising its 2025 Strategic Assessment and formulating the refreshed Draft 2026–2029 Community Safety Strategy before convening a formal consultation event with partners on 20/11/2025, ahead of putting the revised draft (in light of partners' contributions at the 20/11/2025 event) out to formal consultation through the 'Your Voice' portal. During this consultation period there have been further informal and formal consultation with partners and stakeholders across the full range of Community Safety meetings, panels and sub-groups.

- The 'Your Voice' consultation received **147 responses**, with most respondents participating as **residents (72.1%, n=106)**. Additional responses were received from **community/voluntary organisations (10.9%, n=16)**, **statutory organisations (7.5%, n=11)**, **visitors (4.8%, n=7)** and **businesses (2.0%, n=3)**, alongside a small number identifying as **local councillors (0.7%, n=1)** or 'other' (1.4%, n=2).
- Where respondents provided demographic information, participation was strongest among **older age groups**, with the largest proportions aged **45–54 (19.7%, n=29)** and **55–64 (19.7%, n=29)**, and **65–74 (16.3%, n=24)** (noting that **25.9% (n=38)** did not answer the age question).

Respondents who answered the question on disability/long-term health condition most commonly reported **no limiting condition (50.3%, n=74)**, with **15.6% (n=23)** reporting limitations “a little” and **4.8% (n=7)** “a lot” (with **27.2%, n=40** giving no answer).

- For sex and gender, among those responding, **female** respondents were the largest group (**sex: 37.4%, n=55; gender: 34.0%, n=50**) and **male** respondents accounted for **29.9% (n=44)** (with a substantial “no answer” proportion for both questions). A small number identified as **non-binary (2.7%, n=4)**, and **2.0% (n=3)** indicated their gender is different from sex assigned at birth (with **36.7%, n=54** giving no answer to that question).
- In relation to ethnicity, among those responding, the largest group identified as **White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British (36.1%, n=53)**, followed by **White: Other (13.6%, n=20)** and **Mixed background (7.5%, n=11)** (with **29.9%, n=44** giving no answer). For sexual orientation, **heterosexual/straight** respondents formed the largest group (**47.6%, n=70**), with smaller proportions identifying as **gay or lesbian (6.8%, n=10)**, **queer (4.8%, n=7)**, **bisexual (2.0%, n=3)** and other categories (with **33.3%, n=49** giving no answer).
- For religion or belief, the most commonly selected response was “**no particular religion or belief**” (**24.5%, n=36**), followed by **Christian (9.5%, n=14)** and **Jewish (8.2%, n=12)** (with **33.3%, n=49** giving no answer). A small number of respondents indicated current or previous UK armed forces service (**regular: 2.0%, n=3; reserve: 0.7%, n=1**), with **10.2% (n=15)** indicating a close family member had served in the regular forces. Responses to the refugee/asylum question indicated **no respondents selected “recognised refugee” or “seeking asylum”**, with **65.3% (n=96)** selecting “No” and **34.0% (n=50)** giving no answer.

The consultation received a broad range of responses from residents, community groups, statutory partners, and businesses. Across all priority areas, respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the overall aims and plans, but raised concerns about implementation, enforcement, and resourcing. Free text comments provided rich insights into community priorities, anxieties, and expectations.

Consultations were also carried out with some forums, for example, the Refugee and Migrant Forum, One Voice Partnership and other minority forums.

- **Serious violence, drugs & exploitation**
- Agreement levels were high, with over three-quarters supporting the aims and plans. Key themes included:
 - **Top concerns**
 - Visible drug use and dealing in central centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James’ Street, Brighton Station, North Laine) centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James’ Street, Brighton Station, North Laine).
 - Lack of visible policing and low confidence in police response.
 - Homelessness, begging and hostel locations linked by respondents to safety concerns.
 - Need for joined-up safeguarding across police, social care, health and community services.
 - Calls for stronger enforcement, targeted raids, and tackling repeat offenders.
 - Concerns about young people’s vulnerability, lack of youth provision, and links to poverty.
 - **Suggestions**
 - More place-based, nighttime safety approaches and night-time safety approaches.
 - Better reporting mechanisms, including instant reporting tools.
 - Expanded harm reduction, safe use spaces, and investment in support services.
- **Domestic abuse, sexual violence & VAWG**
- **Respondents showed very strong support for the aims.**

- **Key themes**

- Need for better police training, greater trust, and more consistent responses.
- Better focus on early prevention, including healthy relationships education in schools.
- Increased public / community awareness of VAWG and services available
- More refuge spaces and specialist women led services.
- Strong emphasis on holding perpetrators to account.
- Repeated calls to ensure trans, non-binary, and intersex survivors are explicitly included.
- Need for support tailored to people with multiple and compound needs.
- Greater consideration of male victims.

- **Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

Agreement remained high but feedback highlighted frustration with current ASB responses.

- **Top concerns**

- ASB is perceived as worsening, especially in:
 - Kemptown
 - Brighton Station
 - St James' Street
 - The Level
 - Hove Lawns
- Repeat offenders and hotspots not being proactively tackled.
- Insufficient visible policing and lack of follow up when incidents are reported.
- Youth related ASB linked to lack of spaces, activities, and support.
- Perception that council run events sometimes increase ASB.

- **Suggested actions**

- Stronger enforcement and clearer thresholds for action.
- Improved communication back to residents after reports.
- More youth services and preventative community work.

- **Hate incidents & hate crime**

- This section generated the most polarised and high-volume feedback, with over a third of comments relating to tensions between Jewish and Palestinian communities.

- **Key issues**

- Conflicting views on:
 - The nature of local protests
 - Whether criticism of Israel constitutes antisemitism
 - Whether policing is biased *for or against* particular communities
- Requests for:
 - Clearer definitions of hate crime
 - Address the root causes of hate crime - with greater education for young people and countering of divisive narratives in communities and online
 - A more balanced and transparent approach to community tensions
 - Reinstatement of third-party reporting centres
- Widespread concerns about:
 - Under-reporting due to mistrust of authorities
 - Rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hostility toward Trans, Non Binary and Intersex and Black and Racially Minoritised communities
 - Hate speech and intimidation at public protests

- Calls to ensure legitimate protest is not criminalised, alongside concerns that protests can feel intimidating.

- **Prevent**

- Agreement levels were positive overall, but free text comments revealed strong polarisation.

- **Key concerns**

- Fear that Prevent could criminalise protest
- Concern from others about extremist activity, radicalisation of young men, and rising Islamophobia and antisemitism.
- Calls for greater focus on:
 - Far right extremism
 - Online radicalisation and misogynistic influencers (“manosphere”)
 - Supporting young, isolated men and boys
- Concerns about Prevent disproportionately impacting BRM and Muslim communities and damaging trust.

- **Suggestions**

- More community engagement, transparency, and balanced narratives.
- Stronger emphasis on education, critical thinking, and youth support.

- **Cross-cutting themes across the consultation**

1. Visible policing & enforcement

- Across all priority areas, respondents expressed extremely low confidence in police responsiveness.
- Increased place-based work/ tackling geographical city centre hotspots

2. Addressing root causes

- Strong calls to invest in:
 - Poverty reduction
 - Youth provision
 - Housing and homelessness support
 - Mental health and substance misuse services-misuse services

3. Communication and reporting

- People want:
 - Better ways to report crime/ASB
 - Clear feedback loops
 - Transparency about thresholds, actions, and outcomes

4. Community tensions around Israel/Palestine Violence

- The Israel/ Palestine violence strongly shaped feedback, with:
 - Both Jewish, Palestinian, and other communities expressing fear
 - Confusion and disagreement about what constitutes hate crime
 - Concerns about protest rights, safety, and bias in policing

It is important to note that protest and policing of protest do not fall under Prevent workstream and therefore not something that the Prevent Strategy and local delivery could address or influence directly. Unlawful activities at the fringes of lawful protests, and community tensions arising from protests are addressed through Prevent and team activities.

Freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are basic freedoms that support the right to peacefully and lawfully assemble (i.e. protest). The police usually are the agency to enable this right to protest

peacefully and ensure that disruption is minimised to all other residents and city whilst enabling people their freedoms to demonstrate. These freedoms are qualified freedoms (i.e. they can have conditions imposed on them or prohibited within a legal framework) and based on police's own assessments. Police are key partners in the Community Safety Partnership and whilst protest or policing of protests are not covered by the Strategy, we feed in any community concerns or sentiments appropriately to the relevant authorities, and the Safety Advice Group that the local authority chairs with Prevent and Community Cohesion attendance.

Similarly, training to distinguish between antisemitism or anti-Zionism etc. are not within the remit of the Prevent. Some of the extremist ideologies (for example, extreme right wing, Al-Qaida or Daesh affiliated groups) use antisemitic tropes and target Jewish communities and the extent to which extremist groups or ideologies mobilise these prejudices, is covered by the Prevent work and in Prevent trainings. The extremist discourses often respond to topical issues, for example, currently extreme right wing is engaging on an anti-migrant platform – Prevent trainings cover those identified risks and issues and work to tackle them.

Through our engagement and partnership with communities and through our public statements we reiterate city values, encourage reporting of hate incidents and community concerns, and coordinating partnership responses to address those.

Consultation feedback highlighted strong concern about violence against women and girls, including the availability of specialist women-led services, consistency of statutory responses, and the need for inclusive support for all survivors, including trans, non-binary and intersex people. Respondents also raised concerns about fear of crime, safety in public spaces, and the impact of online harm and misogyny.

These insights have informed the equalities analysis within this EIA and reinforce the need for trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approaches across all Community Safety priorities. Ongoing engagement with communities and service users will be essential to monitoring impact and ensuring that delivery responds effectively to lived experience.

5. Current data and impact monitoring

Do you currently collect and analyse the following data to enable monitoring of the impact of this activity? Consider all possible intersections.

(State Yes, No, Not Applicable as appropriate)

Age	Yes, age data is captured in the strategic assessment
Disability and inclusive adjustments, coverage under equality act and not	Yes, disability data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers)	Yes, ethnicity data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Religion, Belief (any religious or philosophical belief), Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Sex	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and Intersex people)	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.

Gender Reassignment	Yes, TNBI data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Sexual Orientation	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No, this is not captured in the strategic assessment.
Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)	No, this is not captured in the strategic assessment.
Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Carers	Yes, carer data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Socio-economic Disadvantage	Yes, index of multiple deprivation data is captured in the strategic assessment
Homelessness and associated risk and vulnerability	Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment.
Human Rights	Not Applicable, it's not practicable within the context of the strategic assessment to collect meaningful human rights data.
Multiple Compound Needs	Yes, MCN data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Mental Health	Yes, mental health data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Substance Misuse	Yes, substance misuse data is captured in the strategic assessment.
Offenders	Yes, offender data is captured in the strategic assessment.

Additional relevant groups that may be widely disadvantaged and have intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers may include:

- Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
- Lone parents
- People experiencing homelessness
- People facing literacy, numeracy and /or digital barriers
- People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
- People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)

- People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery
- People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
- Sex workers

The EIA recognises that there are limitations in the availability, consistency and granularity of equalities data within community safety, particularly in relation to under-reported harms, intersectional identities and experiences that sit across multiple service systems. Some protected characteristics (such as pregnancy, maternity, and marriage or civil partnership) are not routinely captured within community safety data sources, and in other areas data may not fully reflect lived experience due to barriers to reporting or mistrust of statutory services.

To address these limitations, the Strategy places strong emphasis on partnership intelligence, qualitative insight, consultation feedback and learning from lived experience alongside quantitative data. A central mitigation action arising from this EIA is the introduction of a data-driven equalities impact review within Community Safety Partnership governance, supported by the development of a quarterly equalities impact dashboard.

These arrangements will enable the Partnership to identify emerging disproportionality, respond to gaps in data or outcomes, and take corrective action where required. Learning from this process will inform annual strategic reviews and ongoing refinement of delivery, ensuring that equality considerations remain active throughout the lifetime of the Strategy rather than being treated as a one-off exercise.

If you answered “NO” to any of the above, how will you gather this data to enable improved monitoring of impact for this activity?

Currently the strategic assessment is the only tool at our disposal for gathering equalities data, although we are exploring acquiring one, Community Safety doesn't currently have a case management database, nor does it have the resources to separately collect and meaningfully collate significant equalities data.

The strategic assessment doesn't capture Marriage and Civil Partnership or Pregnancy, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause and (In)fertility data, but it's impracticable to identify a methodology/data source for collecting this data in relation to the subjects covered by the Community Safety Strategy.

While the council does hold baseline demographic data, it doesn't currently have a system or methodology for longitudinally comparing this to its demographic data on those impacted across the five strands of the Community Safety Strategy to comprehensively identify disproportionate impacts.

A central plank of the proposed Action Plan arising from this EIA is that the council add a data driven equalities impact review to its quarterly Community Safety Partnership Board meeting, which in turn would require the development of a quarterly equalities impact dashboard (with a data pre-meet of strategic leads prior to each CSP Board meeting).

What are the arrangements you and your service have for monitoring, and reviewing the impact of this activity?

Currently the only mechanism/arrangement for monitoring and reviewing the equalities impact of the Community Safety Strategy is the annually reviewed Strategic Assessment, as a follow-up to this EIA we will be reviewing how an equalities impact dimension can be incorporated into future Strategic Assessments and how the quarterly reviewed Action Plans that underpin each element of the Strategy can incorporate actions to identify and address equality concerns.

6. Impacts

Advisory Note:

- **Impact:**
 - Assessing disproportionate impact means understanding potential negative impact (that may cause direct or indirect discrimination), and then assessing the relevance (that is: the potential effect of your activity on people with protected characteristics) and proportionality (that is: how strong the effect is).
 - These impacts should be identified in the EIA and then re-visited regularly as you review the EIA every 12 to 18 months as applicable to the duration of your activity.
- **SMART Actions mean:** Actions that are (SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, T = Time-bound)
- **Cumulative Assessment:** [If there is impact on all groups equally, complete only the cumulative assessment section.](#)
- **Data analysis and Insights:**
 - In each protected characteristic or group, in answer to the question ‘If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?’, describe what you have learnt from your data analysis about disproportionate impacts, stating relevant insights and data sources.
 - Find and use contextual and wide ranges of data analysis (including community feedback) to describe what the disproportionate positive and negative impacts are on different, and intersecting populations impacted by your activity, especially considering for [Health inequalities](#), review guidance and inter-related impacts, and the impact of various identities.
 - For example: If you are doing road works or closures in a particular street or ward – look at a variety of data and do so from various protected characteristic lenses. Understand and analyse what that means for your project and its impact on different types of people, residents, family types and so on. State your understanding of impact in both effect of impact and strength of that effect on those impacted.
- **Data Sources:**
 - **Consider a wide range (including but not limited to):**
 - [Population and population groups](#)
 - [Census 2021 population groups Infogram: Brighton & Hove by Brighton and Hove City Council](#)
 - [Census](#) and [local intelligence data](#)
 - Service specific data
 - Community consultations
 - Insights from customer feedback including complaints and survey results
 - Lived experiences and qualitative data
 - [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) data](#)
 - [Health Inequalities data](#)
 - Good practice research
 - National data and reports relevant to the service
 - Workforce, leaver, and recruitment data, surveys, insights
 - Feedback from internal ‘staff as residents’ consultations
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on intersectionality, accessibility, sustainability requirements, and impacts.
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on ‘who’ the most intersectionally marginalised and excluded under-represented people and communities are in the context of this EIA.
- Learn more about the [Equality Act 2010](#) and about our [Public Sector Equality Duty](#).

6.1 Age

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to any particular Age group? For example: older people, people who may be housebound, those under 16, young adults, with other intersections.	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Yes
3. Anti-social behaviour	No
4. Hate incidents and crimes	No
5. Prevent	Yes

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer children and older people but more younger adults, particularly those aged 19 to 30. According to the latest ONS estimates (2023), Brighton & Hove is estimated to have more female residents (142,800 people, 51%) than male residents (136,800, people, 49%). The biggest difference is in the age group 19 to 25 years old where there are 2,500 (14%) more females than males. As seen nationally, beyond the age of 75 years old the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 18,900 residents aged 75 or older in the city, of which 58% (10,900 people) are female and 42% (8,000 people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,400 female (67%) to 700 male (33%) residents ().

Older people may experience specific and under-recognised community safety risks, including domestic abuse by partners, adult children or carers, financial exploitation, hate incidents and fear of crime. Older victims may be less likely to report abuse due to stigma, dependency, isolation or lack of awareness of services, and harms may be misidentified as care or health issues rather than safeguarding concerns. Women in later life may be particularly affected by domestic abuse and coercive control that has continued or escalated over time. Fear of crime and antisocial behaviour can also have a disproportionate impact on older people’s wellbeing, independence and use of public space.

The Strategy’s focus on early identification, partnership safeguarding and trauma-informed responses provides a basis for addressing these risks. Equalities monitoring will support improved understanding of older people’s experiences and help ensure that responses are proportionate and accessible. Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Those in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about physical violence against themselves compared with respondents as a whole, with 35% of 18-24 year olds reporting they were very or fairly worried. The proportion of respondents who were very or fairly worried generally decreased in subsequent age groups.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring

through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence disproportionately affects boys and young men, including care-experienced young people and those excluded from education.
- Victims of gang violence, especially young Black men, may be disproportionately treated as perpetrators.
- National stop/search data shows that Black people are 9.7 times more likely to be stopped than White people. Young Black men are disproportionately stopped and searched under serious violence initiatives.
- County lines exploitation disproportionately affects looked-after children and care leavers.
- County lines victims (often looked-after children) characterised as offenders rather than victims.

Mitigations:

- Utilising mentors with lived experience.
- Triggering the Serious Violence Response Plan after critical incidents with potential community cohesion impacts, ensuring a rapid multi-agency response coordinated through Sussex Police with BHCC and partners.
- Better targeted prevention through the AVR (Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting) and associated exploitation screening/safety planning processes, to ensure earlier identification and multi-agency risk management for children at risk of exploitation/serious violence.
- Maintaining (and re-activating where needed) the Op Safety Youth Meeting model for high-risk cohorts, using structured multi-agency risk assessment and action planning to reduce serious violence and exploitation harm.
- Co-designing and targeting BHVRP-funded youth interventions (e.g., detached youthwork, school/A&E-linked youthwork, and diversionary activity) in high-need areas with voluntary and community sector partners embedded in local communities.
- Developing a dedicated multi-agency “exploitation perpetrators” meeting (aligned to existing local multi-agency models) to strengthen identification, disruption, and partnership accountability while protecting victims.
- Strengthening transitional safeguarding via MARM and the developing local transitional safeguarding protocol/pathways, to reduce the risk of young people with complex needs losing support at the point they move into adulthood.

Disproportionate impacts:

- National statistics indicate that most Prevent referrals are for young men. However, number of referrals overall are very small (when compared to safeguarding referrals, VAWG referrals or any of the other priority area identified in this strategy). Prevent is an early intervention programme, that supports all existing freedoms and rights of the individuals (for example, all decisions must be in the best interest of children and young people), Prevent is a supportive intervention - it will coordinate existing universal support and bring in targeted interventions as a bespoke package to improve the outcomes for individuals, to divert them away from risk of illegality (for instance, harm to self or to others).

Mitigations:

- Individuals engage with the support voluntarily, there is a written signed consent form for all individuals, and this will be signed by parents or legal guardian for children under 18 years of age. Individuals can withdraw from support or remove consent from Channel support.

- Channel Panel is made up of professionals from different public bodies; the panel owns and manages the safeguarding risks. Professionals have safeguarding responsibilities and expertise and are robust in their approach.
- Services that are working with or supporting individuals attend as case specific members of the Channel Panel and will be able to advocate for the individual. The panel will invite voice and experience of the individuals into the process to tailor the support package to their needs.
- The Prevent strategy and delivery has explicitly adopted an anti-racist approach and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.

6.2 Disability:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to [Disability](#), considering our [anticipatory duty](#)?

1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Yes
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	Yes
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	Yes

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who were disabled had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Disproportionate impacts

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disabled people, including those with physical, sensory, learning and cognitive disabilities and those with mental ill-health, can experience disproportionate impacts across several areas of community safety. Disabled people are at increased risk of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate incidents and exploitation, and may experience abuse over longer periods before it is identified or reported.

Barriers faced by disabled people include communication and accessibility challenges, dependence on others (including perpetrators) for care or support, reduced access to safe reporting routes, and difficulties navigating complex service systems. Disabled women may face compounded risks due to the intersection of gender-based violence, disability-related dependency and isolation, and barriers to access to information and in reporting.

Mitigations

The Strategy's emphasis on trauma-informed practice, inclusive communication, early identification of vulnerability and partnership safeguarding responses provides a framework for addressing these risks. Commitments to improving accessible reporting pathways, data quality and cross-agency working will support more effective identification of harm and reduce barriers for disabled people. Equalities monitoring will be used to assess whether responses are reaching disabled residents proportionately and to inform service improvements.

Prevent –

Disproportionate impacts:

- National referrals data indicates that individuals who are neurodivergent and/or autistic, and with mental health conditions are often more frequently represented in referrals. There is no causal link between the disability and the Prevent referrals. As stated previously, number of referrals overall are very small, Prevent is a supportive, early intervention, consensual programme to improve outcomes for the individual, and divert them away before any risk of illegality occurs.

Mitigations:

- The Home Office continues to produce disaggregated data and look at impact through national Channel evaluations and a few supportive interventions/ pilots.
- As stated previously, the Channel Panel comprises of professional with knowledge, expertise and responsibilities around safeguarding, including for example, mental health and neurodivergence. The bespoke support package is often to ensure appropriate mental health support is in place and increase support around neurodivergence (for example, appropriate pathways within statutory services).
- A new assessment tool – Prevent Assessment Framework is introduced nationally for robust assessments, that identifies risk and protective factors.
- The 'Clinical Consultancy Services' nationally works to improve the health outcomes for individuals already subject to Counter Terrorism Policing interventions.

What [inclusive adjustments](#) are you making for diverse disabled people impacted? For example: those who are housebound due to disability or disabling circumstances, D/deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, blind, neurodivergent people, those with non-visible disabilities, and with access requirements that may not identify as disabled or meet the legal definition of disability, and have various intersections (Black and disabled, LGBTQIA+ and disabled).

- The strategy document will be designed by the design team to be accessible and will be uploaded on the website in a format accessible for screen readers.
- Translation into British Sign Language and Easy Read will be considered, resources allowing.
- We are committed to advocating and encouraging our partners to continue working on improving accessible reporting pathways to reducing barriers for disabled people, including, but not limited to, ensuring that safety information and reporting pathways are accessible, written in plain English and available in translation to main community languages.

- Exploring ways to better include the digitally excluded. E.g. digitally excluded and British as a second

6.3 Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers):

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to ethnicity?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	Yes

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence. Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller communities had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves, with 61% reporting that they were very or fairly worried about this. Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups as well as respondents who described their ethnicity as 'Other' 30 were also significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves (32% and 30% respectively).

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence disproportionately affects black boys and black young men.
- Victims of gang violence, especially young Black people, may be dealt with as perpetrators rather than victims.
- County lines exploitation disproportionately affects Black and ethnic minoritised young people.
- Adultification bias and racial stereotyping results in 'gang' terminology applied more readily to Black/Asian youth than White youth.
-

Mitigations:

- Better targeted support and interventions through the AVRMS and associated processes.
- Appropriate proactive NRM referrals to ensure victims of exploitation are appropriately identified as victims, no perpetrators and supported accordingly.
- Work with Police, community safety teams and safeguarding agencies to safeguard children and young people who are being exploited.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- Ethnic Minoritised groups and communities are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George's flag campaigns have contributed to the increase in fear of and reported hate incidents against ethnic minoritised groups.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

Prevent –

Disproportionate impacts:

- Local consultation has indicated people's worries about the Prevent strategy potentially being seen as unfairly targeting Muslims, Black and racially minoritised communities.

Mitigations:

- Prevent strategy since 2011 addresses all forms of terrorism. Prevent delivery is risk based, flexible to respond to emerging risks and needs, and proportionate to risks. We carry out annual risk assessments and action plans to respond to those identified strategic risks.
- The Home Office continues to produce disaggregated data, which are published annually, and look at impact through national Channel evaluations. There are national and local scrutiny and oversight of the impacts and mitigation actions.
- As stated previously, the Prevent strategy and delivery has explicitly adopted an anti-racist approach and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.
- Statutory Prevent duty requires local authority to have a regular and effective dialogue with communities. We work with all communities, including minority ethnic and faith communities, and support them as required. Most communities are involved in the One Voice Partnership. One Voice Partnership facilitated by the Brighton and Hove City Council, provides a positive and common vision of our city and its communities. Together, we reinforce the values of Brighton and Hove, which are based on pluralism, equality, fairness, and respect for all. For example, all the statements that respond to critical incidents explicitly promote the headline message that we do not tolerate hate incidents, targeting of any communities, provide counter narratives and reporting routes.
- Please see further mitigations identified under the Faith section below.

6.4 Religion, Belief (any religious or philosophical belief), Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Religion, Belief (any religious or philosophical belief), Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	Yes

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

This EIA assesses the potential impact of the Community Safety Strategy on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010), including those with particular religions, beliefs, spiritual perspectives, or philosophical beliefs (including but not limited to gender-critical beliefs and other philosophical positions on gender and equality). The assessment recognises that people across the full spectrum of protected beliefs may experience crime and community safety issues, and that the council's duty under the Equality Act is to ensure that its community safety work is accessible, responsive, and respectful to all, regardless of their protected beliefs.

Hate Incidents & Crimes

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- The current situation in Israel and Gaza is impacting community cohesion nationally and locally and has contributed to the increase in fear and reported hate incidents against both the Jewish and Muslim communities.
- Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George's flag campaigns have contributed to the increase in fear of and reported hate incidents against both the Jewish and Muslim communities

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

Prevent –

Disproportionate impacts:

- Local consultation has indicated people's worries about the Prevent strategy potentially being seen as unfairly targeting Muslims. This is a legacy issue, as the first iteration of Prevent strategy (prior to 2010) focused on the risks from international terrorism that included Al-Qaida and affiliated ideologies, groups and causes. Prevent strategy since 2011 addresses all forms of terrorism, Prevent delivery is risk based, flexible to respond to emerging risks and needs, and proportionate to risks. We carry out annual risk assessments and action plans to respond to those identified strategic risks.
- Local consultation has also indicated concerns relate to national events and ongoing geo-political shifts and conflicts. For example, many refer to the issues around rising antisemitism in the context of Israel/ Palestine violence and long term, and some refer to the arrests of those opposing ban of the now proscribed group 'Palestine Action'. Protests, and arrests of people on proscription offences are not within the remit of Prevent. The protests are enabled with freedoms of speech and assembly, and the police have a positive duty to facilitate these rights. Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorist or supporting terrorism. Cases adopted onto Channel have a susceptibility to being drawn into terrorism. Antisemitic tropes are well documented within for example, extreme right-wing discourses and activity. Currently, anti-migrant and anti-Muslim discourses form part of extreme right-wing activity. To that extent, Prevent work raises awareness of the issues and support tackles antisemitism or Islamophobia or other prejudices such as those against migrants and refugees.

Mitigations:

- The Home Office continues to produce disaggregated data, which are published annually, and look at impact through national Channel evaluations. There are national and local scrutiny and oversight of the impacts and mitigation actions.
- As stated previously, the Prevent strategy and delivery has explicitly adopted an anti-racist approach and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.
- Statutory Prevent duty requires local authority to have a regular and effective dialogue with communities. We work with Muslim, Jewish, faith and no faith communities and support them as required. Most communities are involved in the One Voice Partnership. One Voice Partnership facilitated by the Brighton and Hove City Council, provides a positive and common vision of our city and its communities. Together, we reinforce the values of Brighton and Hove, which are based on pluralism, equality, fairness, and respect for all. For example, all the statements that respond to critical incidents explicitly promote the headline message that we do not tolerate hate incidents, targeting of any communities, provide counter narratives and reporting routes.
- We work with all faith institutions and respond to any concerns around security or incidents. We have good links with faith communities, faith institutions and faith leaders as well as non-faith and humanist communities to understand concerns and respond to those concerns appropriately. For example, racist violence following the Southport incident (29th July 2024) targeted mosques, migrant, visibly Black and minority communities nationally. We worked with local mosques, Muslim and migrant communities to ensure safety, brought in additional security measures with funding and support from the Home Office. Similarly, following the targeting of Heaton Park Synagogue, in Manchester, we worked with all synagogues and Jewish communities to understand and respond to concerns. Our work therefore improves the safety of minority faith communities and institutions, links them with appropriate statutory agencies, improves wellbeing and sense of belonging.
- Following critical incidents, we reach out to the affected communities and groups appropriately to understand concerns, manage and prevent escalation of community tensions and reassure our communities, work to reduce those risks, and build resilience.

6.5 Sex:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Sex ?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Yes
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence. Respondents who were female had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence disproportionately affects boys and young men, including care-experienced young people and those excluded from education.
- Victims of gang violence, especially young Black men, may be disproportionately treated as perpetrators.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG), including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, harassment and exploitation, is a form of gender-based violence that disproportionately affects women and girls. These harms are rooted in structural gender inequality and are not evenly distributed across the population.

While people of all genders can experience domestic and sexual abuse, evidence consistently shows that women are significantly more likely to experience repeated, coercive and high-harm abuse, often perpetrated by known individuals, and to experience longer-term physical, psychological and economic impacts. Women’s experiences of crime and safety are therefore shaped not only by victimisation, but also by fear of crime, restrictions on movement, and the need to modify everyday behaviour to reduce risk.

Women are also disproportionately affected by sexual harassment, misogynistic abuse and intimidation in public spaces and online, which contributes to reduced feelings of safety and belonging and intersects with other harms such as antisocial behaviour and hate incidents.

Women in later life may be particularly affected by domestic abuse and coercive control that has continued or escalated over time.

Women within migrant and refugee communities may face particular risks, including coercive control, exploitation and culturally specific forms of harm, alongside additional barriers to disclosure and support. Under-reporting is a significant concern, meaning that the scale and nature of harm may not be fully reflected in recorded data.

Consultation feedback highlighted strong concern about violence against women and girls, including the availability of specialist women-led services, consistency of statutory responses, and the need for inclusive support for all survivors, including trans, non-binary and intersex people. Respondents also raised concerns about fear of crime, safety in public spaces, and the impact of online harm and misogyny.

The Strategy explicitly prioritises Violence Against Women and Girls and adopts a whole-system, trauma-informed approach focused on prevention, early intervention, survivor support and perpetrator accountability. It aligns with national and local VAWG strategies and safeguarding duties, ensuring that responses are victim-centred, proportionate and inclusive.

Mitigation includes strengthening coordinated community responses, improving access to specialist support (including women-led and inclusive services), embedding learning from lived experience, and addressing wider factors such as fear of crime, safety in public spaces and online harm. Ongoing partnership oversight will monitor impact and ensure responses continue to reduce inequality rather than reinforce it.

Mitigations

The Community Safety Strategy explicitly prioritises VAWG and adopts a whole-system, trauma-informed approach focused on prevention, early intervention, survivor support and perpetrator accountability. The Strategy aligns with national and local VAWG frameworks and commits to inclusive, victim-centred responses that recognise the gendered nature of harm while ensuring support is accessible to all survivors. Delivery will be supported by partnership governance, learning from lived experience, and ongoing review of equalities impacts.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Young males are likely to be overrepresented as perpetrators of youth ASB, although though data not disaggregated by sex in strategy.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- The TNBI community are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- The Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex and the public discourse that has followed it have heightened fears of discrimination and victimisation in the THBI community.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.6 Gender Identity and Sex:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and intersex people)?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Yes
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who were trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

Consultation feedback highlighted strong concern about violence against women and girls, including the availability of specialist women-led services, consistency of statutory responses, and the need for inclusive support for all survivors, including trans, non-binary and intersex people. Respondents also raised concerns about fear of crime, safety in public spaces, and the impact of online harm and misogyny.

LGBTQ+ and TNBI people in Brighton and Hove experience disproportionate harms across multiple areas of community safety, reflected in higher exposure to hate incidents and crimes and ongoing experiences of exclusion. The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy identifies hate incidents as a core priority area and highlights the need to address the specific vulnerabilities of minoritised groups within the city’s safety landscape. Local research shows that while some LGBTQ+ residents benefit from Brighton and Hove’s inclusive environment, trans and non-binary people in particular continue to face multiple forms of exclusion and are significantly affected by hate crime, indicating persistent inequalities in safety and wellbeing. Additionally, LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse, especially trans survivors, are acutely impacted by service pressures and risk losing specialist support, which further compounds their vulnerability to harm and reduces safe pathways to protection and recovery.

Non-binary, intersex (TNBI) individuals experience fear of exploitation, but data on this group is limited; leading to potential gaps in identifying vulnerabilities.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- The TNBI community are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- The Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex and the public discourse that has followed it have heightened fears of discrimination and victimisation in the TNBI community.
- Impact of online harm and transphobia.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.7 Gender Reassignment:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to <u>Gender Reassignment</u> ?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Respondents who were Trans had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- The TNBI community are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- The Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex and the public discourse that has followed it have heightened fears of discrimination and victimisation in the THBI community.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.8 Sexual Orientation:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to <u>Sexual Orientation</u> ?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who were LGBQ+ had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

LGBTQ+ and TNBI people in Brighton and Hove experience disproportionate harms across multiple areas of community safety, reflected in higher exposure to hate incidents and crimes and ongoing experiences of exclusion. The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy identifies hate incidents as a core priority area and highlights the need to address the specific vulnerabilities of minoritised groups within the city’s safety landscape. Local research shows that while some LGBTQ+ residents benefit from Brighton and Hove’s inclusive environment, trans and non-binary people in particular continue to face multiple forms of exclusion and are significantly affected by hate crime, indicating persistent inequalities in safety and wellbeing. Additionally, LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse, especially trans survivors, are acutely impacted by service pressures and risk losing specialist support, which further compounds their vulnerability to harm and reduces safe pathways to protection and recovery.

Disproportionate impacts:

- The LGBTQ+ community is disproportionately victim of hate incidents and crimes.
- The national dialogue on migration management-alongside the St George’s flag campaigns has stoked parallel expressions of homophobia, contributing to the fears of victimisation in the gay community.
- LGBTQ+ community is similarly disproportionately victim of ASB.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.9 Marriage and Civil Partnership:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Marriage and Civil Partnership?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

6.10 Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum):

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

6.11 Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Armed Forces Members and Veterans?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

6.12 Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum seekers, Refugees, those New to the UK, and UK visa or assigned legal status? (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections)	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Yes
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum may experience heightened vulnerability to crime, exploitation, hate incidents and abuse, including domestic and sexual violence. These risks can be compounded by language barriers, insecure immigration status, fear of statutory authorities, social isolation, poverty and lack of awareness of rights and available support.

Women within migrant and refugee communities may face particular risks, including coercive control, exploitation and culturally specific forms of harm, alongside additional barriers to disclosure and support. Under-reporting is a significant concern, meaning that the scale and nature of harm may not be fully reflected in recorded data.

The Strategy recognises the importance of trust, accessible information and partnership working with voluntary and community sector organisations in supporting migrant and refugee communities. Actions to improve inclusive communication, strengthen safeguarding pathways and address hate incidents will support more equitable access to support. Monitoring of equalities data and community intelligence will help identify gaps and inform targeted responses.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George’s flag campaigns have contributed to the increase in fear of and reported hate incidents against Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.13 Carers:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Carers (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).

1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

While carers are not identified as a group disproportionately impacted by the Strategy, some carers may experience indirect impacts where caring relationships overlap with dependency, isolation, domestic abuse or safeguarding concerns. The Strategy’s safeguarding-led and trauma-informed approach provides a framework for identifying and responding to such risks where they arise.

6.14 Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced children and adults (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).

Also consider our [Corporate Parenting Responsibility](#) in connection to your activity.

1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who have experience of the care system as a child/ young person all had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence and exploitation disproportionately affect care-experienced young people and those excluded from education.
- Victims of gang violence, including care-experienced young people may be disproportionately treated as perpetrators.
- County lines exploitation disproportionately affects looked-after children and care leavers.
- County lines victims (often looked-after children) characterised as offenders rather than victims.

Mitigations:

- Better targeted prevention through the AVRMS and associated processes.
- Appropriate proactive NRM referrals to ensure victims of exploitation are appropriately identified as victims, not perpetrators and supported accordingly.

6.15 Homelessness:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to people experiencing homelessness, and associated risk and vulnerability? (Especially considering for age, veteran, ethnicity, language, and various intersections)

1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	No
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

While homelessness is not a protected characteristic, people experiencing homelessness often face intersecting vulnerabilities linked to exploitation, sexual violence, hate incidents and criminalisation. Women experiencing homelessness are at particular risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. These risks are addressed through the Strategy's focus on Multiple Compound Needs, safeguarding-led responses and alignment with housing, health and substance misuse services.

6.16 Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, people in vulnerable situations:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Domestic Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Yes
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	Yes
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Yes
5. Prevent	No

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of interpersonal harm experience significant and often long-lasting impacts on physical safety, mental health, housing security, financial stability and wellbeing. These harms are frequently hidden and under-reported, particularly where individuals experience fear, shame, coercive control, or mistrust of statutory services.
- While violence against women and girls disproportionately affects women and girls, domestic and sexual abuse can affect people of all genders, including men and trans, non-binary and intersex people. Survivors may also experience multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities, including disability, mental ill-health, substance misuse, homelessness, immigration insecurity, poverty and social isolation, which can increase exposure to harm and create substantial barriers to disclosure, reporting and access to support.
- People in vulnerable situations may be at risk of being misidentified as perpetrators of antisocial behaviour or criminal activity rather than recognised as victims in need of safeguarding. Survivors experiencing multiple compound needs are particularly vulnerable to repeat victimisation,

exploitation and criminalisation if responses are not trauma-informed and coordinated across agencies. Evidence also highlights the link between domestic abuse, trauma, deteriorating mental wellbeing and heightened risk of self-harm and suicide, underlining the significant health inequalities associated with abuse.

Mitigations:

- The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy explicitly prioritises domestic abuse, sexual violence and Violence Against Women and Girls and adopts a whole-system, trauma-informed approach to mitigate these disproportionate impacts. Delivery focuses on prevention, early intervention, survivor-centred support and perpetrator accountability, aligned with national and local VAWG strategies and safeguarding duties.
- The Strategy strengthens coordinated community responses to ensure that survivors are identified early, believed, and supported through accessible and inclusive pathways, rather than being criminalised or excluded from services. Particular emphasis is placed on addressing intersections with multiple disadvantage, including homelessness, substance misuse and mental ill-health, through partnership working and alignment with wider health, housing and social care systems.
- Mitigation also includes improving professional practice across agencies, enhancing awareness and reporting routes, supporting specialist and inclusive services, and embedding learning from lived experience. Ongoing equalities monitoring through Community Safety Partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks, gaps in provision and unintended consequences, ensuring that responses continue to reduce harm and inequality over the lifetime of the Strategy.

6.17 Socio-economic Disadvantage:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Socio-economic Disadvantage? (Especially considering for age, disability, D/deaf/ blind, ethnicity, expatriate background, and various intersections)	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Yes
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	No
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	No
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	No
5. Prevent	No

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence. Respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention,

safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Socio-economic disadvantage renders people more vulnerable to grooming and exploitation, resulting in the socio-economic disadvantaged being disproportionately affected by criminal exploitation and associated violence.

Mitigations:

- Better targeted prevention through the AVRMS and associated processes.

6.18 Human Rights:

Will your activity have a disproportionate impact relating to Human Rights?	
1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation	Not Applicable
2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Not Applicable
3. Anti-Social Behaviour	Not Applicable
4. Hate Incidents and Crimes	Not Applicable
5. Prevent	Not Applicable

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Note: While this Strategy engages areas where human rights considerations are relevant – including policing powers, enforcement activity, and Prevent duties - it does not introduce new powers or change legal thresholds. Potential impacts on rights such as freedom of expression, assembly and privacy have been considered and are mitigated through existing statutory safeguards, proportionality requirements, multi-agency governance, and oversight arrangements. The Strategy emphasises lawful, proportionate and necessity-based decision-making, alongside safeguarding, transparency and accountability.

6.19 Cumulative, multiple intersectional, and complex impacts (including on additional relevant groups):

What cumulative or complex impacts might the activity have on people who are members of multiple Minoritised groups?

- For example: people belonging to the Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller community who are also disabled, LGBTQIA+, older disabled trans and non-binary people, older Black and Racially Minoritised disabled people of faith, young autistic people.

- Also consider wider disadvantaged and intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers:
 - People being housebound due to disabilities or disabling circumstances
 - Environmental barriers or mobility barriers impacting those with sight loss, D/deafness, sensory requirements, neurodivergence, various complex disabilities
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
 - People facing literacy, numeracy and/or digital barriers
 - Lone parents
 - People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
 - Sex workers
 - Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
 - People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
 - People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery

Many individuals experience overlapping forms of disadvantage that compound their exposure to crime, harm and barriers to support. These cumulative impacts are particularly significant for people who belong to more than one marginalised or disadvantaged group.

For example, women who are disabled, from Black and Racially Minoritised communities, migrants, refugees, older people or those experiencing poverty may face heightened risks of abuse and exploitation alongside additional barriers to reporting and accessing support. These barriers can include language requirements, insecure immigration status, reliance on carers or perpetrators, stigma, fear of authorities, inaccessible services and lack of culturally appropriate provision.

People experiencing multiple compound needs, including homelessness, substance use, poor mental health and contact with the criminal justice system, are at increased risk of both victimisation and criminalisation. Women within this group are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, coercion and violence, and may experience responses that prioritise enforcement over safeguarding if equalities impacts are not actively considered.

The Strategy seeks to mitigate cumulative impacts by strengthening partnership working, aligning enforcement with support, embedding trauma-informed practice and improving data and learning on disproportionality. Ongoing monitoring of equalities impacts through partnership governance will be critical to identifying emerging risks and ensuring that responses do not inadvertently reinforce existing inequalities.

7. Action planning

What SMART actions will be taken to address the disproportionate and cumulative impacts you have identified?

- Summarise relevant SMART actions from your data insights and disproportionate impacts below for this assessment, listing appropriate activities per action as bullets. (This will help your Business Manager or Fair and Inclusive Action Plan (FIAP) Service representative to add these to the Directorate FIAP, discuss success measures and timelines with you, and monitor this EIA's progress as part of quarterly and regular internal and external auditing and monitoring)

<p>1. To add a data driven equalities impact review to the standing agenda of the quarterly Community Safety Partnership Board meeting.</p>

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a quarterly equalities impact dashboard to inform the quarterly equalities impact review. |
|---|

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an equalities data pre-meet of strategic leads prior to each CSP Board meeting to prepare for the quarterly equalities impact review. Incorporate the learning and insights from the quarterly CSP Board equalities impact reviews into the annual strategic review of the Community Safety Strategy, incorporating the resultant equality analysis and corrective action planning.
<p>2. To seek to ensure that all community safety information is accessible, available in plain English, various languages and accessible formats, such as British Sign Language (BSL) and Easy Read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add the Easy Read version of the strategy to Easy Read Hub on Brighton and Hove City Council's website.

Which action plans will the identified actions be transferred to?

- For example: Team or Service Plan, Local Implementation Plan, a project plan related to this EIA, FIAP (Fair and Inclusive Action Plan) – mandatory noting of the EIA on the Directorate EIA Tracker to enable monitoring of all equalities related actions identified in this EIA. This is done as part of FIAP performance reporting and auditing. Speak to your Directorate's Business Improvement Manager (if one exists for your Directorate) or to the Head of Service/ lead who enters actions and performance updates on FIAP and seek support from your Directorate's EDI Business Partner.

8. Outcome of your assessment

What decision have you reached upon completing this Equality Impact Assessment? (Mark 'X' for any ONE option below)

Stop or pause the activity due to unmitigable disproportionate impacts because the evidence shows bias towards one or more groups.	
Adapt or change the activity to eliminate or mitigate disproportionate impacts and/or bias.	
Proceed with the activity as currently planned – no disproportionate impacts have been identified, or impacts will be mitigated by specified SMART actions.	
Proceed with caution – disproportionate impacts have been identified but having considered all available options there are no other or proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the activity (for example, in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore, you are going to proceed with caution with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision.	X

If your decision is to "Proceed with caution", please provide a reasoning for this:

<p>Caution because there is disproportionality, proceed because we need a Community Safety Strategy.</p> <p>The decision to proceed with caution reflects the fact that the Strategy addresses areas where disproportionality already exists across multiple protected characteristics and disadvantaged groups, and where statutory duties require action. The risks of inaction would be greater than the risks of proceeding. Identified impacts will be mitigated through trauma-informed practice, partnership governance, targeted prevention, and ongoing equalities monitoring, including quarterly review through the Community Safety Partnership Board.</p>
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Summarise your overall equality impact assessment recommendations to include in any committee papers to help guide and support councillor decision-making:

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029 identifies that crime, harm and fear of crime are not experienced equally across Brighton & Hove. The evidence shows that certain groups are disproportionately affected, including women and girls, disabled people, Black and racially minoritised communities, LGBTQ+ communities (particularly trans, non-binary and intersex people), young people, care-experienced individuals, migrants and refugees, and people experiencing poverty, homelessness or multiple compound needs.

The EIA finds that these inequalities are driven by a combination of structural factors, including deprivation, discrimination, barriers to reporting, mistrust of statutory services, and cumulative disadvantage. In particular, violence against women and girls is identified as a form of gender-based harm rooted in inequality and closely linked to wider health and social inequalities. Hate incidents and crimes, including those linked to religion, race, sexuality, gender identity and disability, have a significant impact on community cohesion and feelings of safety, with under-reporting remaining a key challenge. Young people, care-experienced children and those experiencing exploitation face heightened risks of criminalisation rather than safeguarding if equalities impacts are not actively considered.

The EIA also recognises that delivery of the Strategy operates within a complex statutory environment, including duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. While some areas of community safety activity engage human rights considerations (such as enforcement powers and Prevent), the Strategy does not introduce new powers and places strong emphasis on proportionality, safeguarding, transparency and accountability.

To mitigate identified disproportionate impacts, the EIA recommends that the Strategy is delivered through trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approaches, with a strong focus on early intervention, victim-centred responses and partnership working. Particular emphasis is placed on ensuring that enforcement activity is aligned with safeguarding and support, especially for people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

A central recommendation of the EIA is the introduction of strengthened governance and monitoring arrangements. This includes the addition of a standing equalities impact review at the Community Safety Partnership Board, supported by the development of a quarterly equalities impact dashboard. These mechanisms will enable ongoing scrutiny of disproportionality, support learning from lived experience and data, and allow corrective action to be taken where required.

The EIA concludes that, while disproportionate impacts are present, the risks of not having a statutory Community Safety Strategy in place would be greater. The Strategy should therefore proceed with caution, recognising existing inequalities and committing to active mitigation through partnership delivery, continuous monitoring and transparent governance. Councillors are asked to note that equality considerations are embedded within the Strategy and that ongoing oversight will be critical to ensuring that delivery advances equality, reduces harm and strengthens community safety for all residents.

9. Publication

All Equality Impact Assessments will be published. If you are recommending, and choosing not to publish your EIA, please provide a reason:

10. Directorate and Service Approval

Signatory:	Name and Job Title:	Date: DD-MMM-YY
Responsible Lead Officer:	Adam Salmon, Community Safety Manager	05/03/2026
Accountable Manager:	Richard Tuset, Head of Community Cohesion	05/03/2026

Notes, relevant information, and requests (if any) from Responsible Lead Officer and Accountable Manager submitting this assessment:

EDI Review, Actions, and Approval:

Equality Impact Assessment sign-off

EDI Business Partner to cross-check against aims of the equality duty, public sector duty and our civic responsibilities the activity considers and refer to relevant internal checklists and guidance prior to recommending sign-off.

Once the EDI Business Partner has considered the equalities impact to provide approval for by those submitting the EIA, they will get the EIA signed off and sent to the requester copying the Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager, [Equalities inbox](#), any other service colleagues as appropriate to enable EIA tracking, accountability, and saving for publishing. Budget and Staffing EIAs secure EDI Manager and Head of Service level approval via different templates.

Signatory:	Name:	Date: DD-MMM-YY
EDI Officer:	Zofia Danin	
EDI Manager:	Deb Totney	

Notes and recommendations from EDI Officer reviewing this assessment:

Notes and recommendations (if any) from EDI Manager reviewing this assessment:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 149

Subject: Crisis and Resilience Fund

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

Lead Officer: Director Property & Finance

Contact Officer: Paul Ross-Dale

Email: Paul.Ross-Dale@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000 and is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the proposed allocations and delivery approach for the government's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF) from April 2026.
- 1.2 Delivery of the CRF supports the delivery of the Council Plan outcome to be a fair and inclusive city. It specifically delivers the council's work to reduce inequality through supporting the delivery of the Cost of Living Action Plan and tackling food insecurity for all, including looking at the emergency food needs of Black and Racially Minoritised communities, refugees and asylum seeker communities.
- 1.3 The CRF aligns with other activities in the city to be a fair and inclusive city, including the Inequality and Life Chances Review 2026, the Pride in Place Programme and the Community Cohesion Roadmap. As each activity is progressed, opportunities for future allocations of the CRF will be considered to ensure activities are complementary.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet agrees the allocation set out in Sections 4.3 to 4.29 and Appendix 1 for the allocations of the CRF.
- 2.2 Cabinet delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Regeneration, to make alterations to the allocation of the CRF to maximise its use.

2.3 Cabinet delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Regeneration, to approve a revised Housing Payment Scheme.

3. Context and background information

3.1 The Household Support Fund (HSF), introduced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in 2021, will conclude on 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2026, the Government will implement the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) as a successor scheme. CRF is designed to provide targeted support for households facing financial hardship, while also building longer-term resilience and community co-ordination.

3.2 CRF also incorporates Housing Payments. These replace Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP), which help vulnerable households meet rent shortfalls and other housing costs due to Universal Credit and Housing Benefit not covering the full rent.

3.3 The CRF allocation for Brighton & Hove is as follows:

Old HSF and DHP	2025/26	New CRF	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
HSF	£3,772,323	CRF core	£3,250,784	£3,248,985	£3,315,121
Discretionary Housing Payment	£645,514	CRF Housing Payments	£645,514	£645,514	£525,827
DHP Admin grant	£85,557	CRF Housing Payments admin	£85,557	£85,557	£0
Total pot	£4,503,394	Total pot	£3,981,855	£3,980,056	£3,840,948

3.4 The proposed CRF allocations for 2026/27 are set out in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.29 of this report and Appendix 1. These allocations have been informed by learning from previous HSF and Fairness Fund activities. The demonstrative impact of these activities is detailed in Section 4 below. The new elements in the proposals around the Best Start Family Hubs and the Holidays, Activities and Food Programme are co-designed with cross-council input. In addition, the proposed allocations have been informed by the Welfare Support Financial Assistance Board, the Poverty Reduction Steering Group and meetings with partnership organisations and stakeholders to evaluate HSF strengths and weaknesses and identify priorities and opportunities for CRF, as set out in Section 6.

A Fair and Inclusive City

3.5 Although the CRF is a three-year fund, the allocation proposals cover 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 only. This will allow time for further engagement with stakeholders and input from other activities to inform future years of the scheme. This is to ensure that there is a balanced and strategic view of how to deliver the best outcomes from CRF through to 2029 to support delivery

of the Council Plan. Proposals for future years allocations will be brought to Cabinet and will be informed by:

- The **Inequality and Life Chances Review 2026** is capturing lived experiences from a range of stakeholders across the city, with a focus on neighbourhoods with persistent and entrenched poverty and inequality. The Review will seek views from personal and community experiences, alongside stakeholders who have a role in the local economy and policy making. The findings from the Review can be used to inform future allocations of the CRF.
- The **Pride in Place Programme** is the government's long-term investment programme offering up to £20 million to improve local neighbourhoods. The funding is designed to put power directly into the hands of local residents, helping communities decide what matters most. Whitehawk is a recipient of this funding. Some of the aims of the Programme align with the aims of the CRF, most notably delivering interventions that provide lasting change and building resilience in communities, alongside seeking to reduce child poverty and alleviating cost of living pressures. Feedback from the Programme's community engagement activities, whilst focused on Whitehawk, can be used to inform allocations of the CRF for years 2 and 3.
- The **Community Cohesion Roadmap** sets out how to build community cohesion in Brighton & Hove. Some of the principles and pillars within the Roadmap are complementary to the aims of the CRF, particularly around inclusion and fairness. As allocations for future years of the CRF are developed, consideration will be given to the aims and actions within the Roadmap to lever funding, where possible.

Help during the school holidays

- 3.6 The CRF is a needs-based, crisis-focused fund, not universal welfare provision. As such, it is different to HSF in terms of the provision of Free School Meals (FSM). CRF does not permit automatic, blanket vouchers for all FSM families. Instead, CRF allocations must prioritise support for the poorest families during school holidays through targeted, needs based help, by assessing individual hardship, choosing the most appropriate form of assistance, and linking families to wider resilience services. Therefore, there is not a FSM allocation within the CRF.
- 3.7 To mitigate this, provision has been made within other allocations including Best Start Family Hubs (paragraphs 4.10 and 4.12), Cost of Living Events (paragraph 4.13) and the Holidays, Activities and Food Programme (paragraph 4.14). Furthermore, other allocations such as Food and Essential Organisations (paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6) provides community food support to prevent hunger and build long-term financial stability. This has been built into the CRF allocations.
- 3.8 There are also national policy changes that will reduce pressure on low-income families to mitigate this:
- Removal of the Two Child Limit: the two-child limit has long been associated with deepening child poverty; its removal ensures larger families receive full benefit entitlement again.

- Expansion of Universal Credit–linked FSM eligibility: starting in 2026, all UC households will qualify for FSM.
- Increased investment in family hubs, early years, and school-based provision: wider government commitments in the Spending Review include expanded childcare and family support services, which indirectly reduce household costs, which will be complemented by local provisions through CRF.
- Local Mitigations and Strengthened Support Model: despite CRF restrictions, the council is implementing a robust suite of mitigations to support children and families during holiday periods and beyond.
- Expansion of Breakfast Clubs: to contribute to dietary stability, reduces morning hunger, and improves attendance and concentration in the absence of FSM provision.

4. Proposed allocations

- 4.1 Whereas the HSF was weighted heavily towards crisis response, CRF places emphasis on four different areas, of which crisis response is only one. The DWP guidance requires us to give ample coverage of each area. The aims of the scheme align with our local strategy for welfare response, as outlined in the Cost of Living Action Plan. Activities funded by CRF are intended to be outcomes-based, and steer away from crisis-only help. The aim is to strengthen financial resilience by ensuring that households do not just receive vouchers or emergency help, without being signposted or referred for additional help, thus avoiding the crisis reoccurring in the future.
- 4.2 The four areas of CRF are:
- Crisis Payments
 - Resilience Services
 - Housing Payments
 - Community Co-ordination

Crisis Payments

- 4.3 **Crisis Payments** address immediate, short-term needs caused by sudden financial shocks such as lost income, urgent bills, or unexpected events. Funding allows one off emergency help for essentials like food, utilities, and basic household items, replacing previous Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) mechanisms. The focus is rapid, flexible support delivered either through the council, or through partner organisations to stabilise households in crisis.
- 4.4 Crisis Payments will primarily be distributed by a new Crisis Payments team, replacing the Discretionary Help and Advice Team, who currently administer the LDSF. It will work in conjunction with the Community Hub, and will continue to be an application-based scheme, and applicants will be signposted or referred on for additional resilience help, whether that is debt and money advice or other services. It is proposed that the Crisis Payment pot receives an allocation of £551,776.

- 4.5 It is proposed that £675,000 is allocated to food projects, food banks and community-based organisations across the city, to enable the provision of **food and essential items** directly to their client groups. Under HSF, a “many doors” approach has been very effective for ensuring adequate access to help across the city.
- 4.6 Under CRF, there is a requirement to ensure that when crisis help is provided, it is needs-based but also goes hand in hand with broader support to help avoid further crisis. As the CRF evolves, funding will therefore need to focus more strongly on organisations that are providing either a sustainable food offer, or elements of wraparound support for their clients. If any organisations are unable to meet the outcomes of the CRF, they will be unable to access funding.
- 4.7 It is proposed that £64,142 is allocated to **Impact Initiatives**, who provide an on-the-day Emergency Food Access service, including online food shops for those who are unable to leave the house. It was originally intended that the overall offer in the city would reduce or eliminate the need for this service, but demand is still high. During the forthcoming year, officers will work with Impact Initiatives on options for future years.
- 4.8 In the proposals, £130,000 is allocated to **Discretionary Council Tax Reduction**. This limited fund tops up the amount of Council Tax Reduction awarded, so that some of the most financially vulnerable households receive up to 100% reduction.
- 4.9 It is proposed that £80,000 is allocated to social workers in Children's Services. **Section 17** of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need by providing appropriate support and services to them and their families. The CRF allocation means that those needs can be met more flexibly.
- 4.10 An allocation of £60,000 is proposed for the **Best Start Family Hubs** to provide vouchers and equivalent help for clients experiencing crisis. This will go hand in hand with resilience services described in paragraph 4.12.
- 4.11 An allocation of £10,000 is proposed for **period poverty**, allowing for the continuation of two pilot schemes with Mooncup and Hey Girls offering sustainable period products via online ordering.

Resilience Services

- 4.12 To mitigate the impact of FSM changes, it is proposed that the **Best Start Family Hubs** are funded for two additional posts, costing £123,295. The Hubs provide families with holistic support that extends beyond the value of the immediate financial crisis help given. During the school holidays, parents in need of support will be able to access more help. Previously, when FSM vouchers were sent out by schools, there was not any direct link to additional help. Under this CRF proposal, if families receive help from the Family Hubs, they will also have access to a range of other support that

could help to prevent crisis in the future. This is in line with the aims of the CRF.

- 4.13 The increased capacity will also enable the Family Hubs to hold more **Cost of Living Events**. Two of these were held in 2025-26 and proved to be very successful, bringing together practitioners and advisers from across the voluntary sector and council services. Attendees were able to receive immediate crisis help via vouchers and also see advisors to help with their specific issues. A budget of £36,638 has been set aside in the proposals to pay for the vouchers and set up of these events. It is intended that events will be held around the main school holidays, providing a focal point for struggling families
- 4.14 Additional funding of £25,000 is proposed so that the **Holidays, Activities and Food (HAF) Programme** can be supplemented. The scheme attracts existing funding that enables providers in the city to run food and activity clubs in the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. This CRF supplementary funding will enable HAF to extend into half terms. It is estimated there will be 350 HAF places for eligible children and young people (school aged in Reception to Year 11), accompanied by 350 adult places.
- 4.15 The outcomes-based approach of CRF means that there is a need for the city to be adequately resourced to provide advice and support to those accessing help. The **Welfare Advisory Team** provides advice and advocacy for people who need support with benefit claims and associated appeals. Also, the Team provides support for families who have been benefit capped, helping them to escape the cap by finding employment, or successfully claiming Personal Independence Payment if appropriate. In 2025-26, the team was funded by the Fairness Fund and the General Fund, with additional contributions from the HRA and asylum support. In 2026-27, it is proposed that the General Fund element is now brought into CRF, therefore releasing a saving against the General Fund. The proposed allocation from the CRF is £360,737.
- 4.16 For a number of years, HSF has funded initiatives in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) for **advice and other community support**, such as energy help, money advice and services in the Youth Advice Centre. A proposed allocation of £400,000 has been set aside to continue funding advice and other holistic support in the VCS, and officers will work in conjunction with key stakeholders to develop a model that reflects the current needs of the city, and recognises changing priorities.
- 4.17 The allocation includes a commitment to the Youth Advice Centre, which has been supported by HSF in 2025-26, and would otherwise be unable to operate at current levels. An amount will also be allocated to maintain continuity in schemes that are currently run by Money Advice Plus, which provide money advice linked to fuel grants.
- 4.18 Allocations from this pot will be data-based and prioritised in accordance with up-to-date needs analysis from the Advice and Financial Inclusion

Partnership, Brighton and Hove Food Partnership and other key stakeholders. Payments from the CRF are authorised by the S151 officer.

- 4.19 **BHESCo** (Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-Op) has provided energy efficiency advice and energy saving items for a number of years. They provide home visits to tailor their support on a needs basis and the CRF proposals allow for continued support of that programme with a suggested allocation of £35,000.

Housing Payments

- 4.20 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) mainly help vulnerable households with shortfalls in rent caused by Local Housing Allowance rates not covering full liabilities. They can also cover removal costs and rent in advance. Although **CRF Housing Payments** replace DHPs from 1 April 2026, the scheme is fundamentally similar with some slight differences, and the funding provided in years one and two of CRF is the same as the DHP funding.
- 4.21 DHP decisions are guided by a Scheme agreed by Policy & Resources Committee in 2013. This is under review to ensure it is aligned with the CRF guidance. A revised Scheme will be approved by the Section 151 Officer under the delegated powers set out at recommendation 2.3.
- 4.22 In the meantime, the CRF guidance will determine the substance of decision-making for Housing Payments, and the DHP Scheme will determine the structure and appeals process for decision-making.
- 4.23 The DHP budget from the DWP has been £645,514 for several years, supplemented by additional money from HRA to assist council tenants. The CRF guidance gives Local Authorities flexibility to spend +/-20% of the £645,514 allocation, but previous experience shows that the full allocation will be spent, and most or all of the supplementary amount from HRA.

Community Co-Ordination

- 4.24 The CRF guidance requires Local Authorities to allocate some of their funding to **Community Co-Ordination**. A proposed budget of £60,000 has been set aside for this work. Further engagement with stakeholders will help to inform the optimum use of this allocation, before making decisions on how it should be spent.
- 4.25 Options could include:
- help for organisations that provide infrastructure support for other organisations in the VCS.
 - a joined up referral system that links food banks, advice agencies, the council and other providers
- 4.26 Options can only be considered where they are clearly linked to the outcomes of CRF. They will be developed during the next three to six months and approval will be sought from the Section 151 Officer under the delegated powers set out at recommendation 2.2.

- 4.27 For the last two years, the Brighton and Hove Fairness Fund allowed for an allocation of small grants to grassroots organisations under the banner of “**Fairness Fund for People and Place**”. This pot allows for smaller organisations who struggle to access other funding streams. It is proposed that the scheme continues, with a budget of £100,000 for 2026-27.
- 4.28 It will be important to retain some flexibility during the year to respond to national and global events that may impact on the Cost of Living, and changes to demand for welfare support. Recommendation 2.2 creates the conditions for this to happen by delegating authority to the Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Regeneration, to make alterations to the allocation of the CRF.

Staffing and administration

- 4.29 It is proposed £584,753 is allocated towards staffing and administration. This includes officers within the **Crisis Payments Team** and the **Community Hub**. These have been increased by 2 FTE to meet the 48-hour turnaround target and continue to support energy resilience activities. The funding will also cover **CRF support, management and evaluation**. This allocation will also cover the cost of two Housing Benefit Officers for **Discretionary Housing Payments administration** now this has moved within CRF.
- 4.30 It is proposed that the CRF continues to fund the **Low Income Family Tracker** (LIFT), which provides data analysis to help inform the picture of poverty and risk in the city, also enabling the council to target specific households for proactive help.

5. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 5.1 The proposed CRF allocations aim to strengthen financial resilience by ensuring that households do not just receive vouchers or emergency help, without being signposted or referred for additional help, thus avoiding the crisis reoccurring in the future. The proposed allocations have been informed by learning and experience of delivering the HSF and Fairness Fund.
- 5.2 Changing the balance of allocation is possible but the proposed allocations attempt to sustain effective support, maintain a diverse range of access routes, provide more preventive advice and support, and enable several innovative initiatives. Any changes to the allocations will need to be considered to determine impact and may result in services being reduced or withdrawn.

6. Community engagement and consultation

- 6.1 The Welfare Support and Financial Assistance Board meets regularly, bringing together a range of practitioners from council services and the advice and food network. On 3 March 2026, the usual membership of the group was expanded to enable around 40 organisations to contribute

feedback. Our partners were supportive of the proposed transition-year approach, with organisations welcoming continuity of funding in Year 1 to avoid destabilising frontline provision. However, concerns were raised about whether enough provision had been made to reflect the CRF's move away from Crisis towards Resilience, in a way that allowed enough partners to access funding in a balanced way. Participants emphasised the importance of community-led insight in shaping future CRF delivery, noting that local organisations are well-placed to identify emerging needs and deliver flexible, preventative support. There was consistent agreement on the value of partnership working, including co-location, shared delivery models and stronger links with council teams, to better meet household needs.

- 6.2 As a result of the feedback, some of the original proposals around the VCS have now been combined into a single, enhanced pot of £400,000, so that there is more scope for strengthening the resilience strand over time, supported by data-led prioritisation (paragraphs 4.16 to 4.18).
- 6.3 Partners also raised a number of risks and priorities to inform future design. Smaller food and mutual-aid projects highlighted capacity pressures and the need for support, if required, to adapt toward broader resilience activities. There was strong interest in developing system-wide approaches, such as integrated work with housing, social care and credit-union partnerships, and there was strong support for further co-design over the next six months to refine Years 2 and 3 of the programme.
- 6.4 Three meetings were held with our partner organisations and stakeholders in September 2025 to evaluate HSF strengths and weaknesses and identify priorities and opportunities for CRF.
- 6.5 The meetings allowed for reflection on the past year of HSF delivery, where organisations highlighted the benefits of flexible, rapid support, longer term funding, light-touch monitoring, and community-led models that reached people who would not engage with statutory services. Cross-Sector partnership was highlighted as a strength that should be continued into CRF.
- 6.6 Challenges were also identified, including duplication of support due to the absence of shared data systems, pressures linked to rising demand and complex cases, gaps in refugee and domestic abuse pathways, unfunded core costs, and unstructured referral routes that overwhelmed some services.
- 6.7 Looking ahead to CRF, organisations expressed a preference for multi-year and flexible funding, inclusion of advice within resilience-building, funded core costs, better data-sharing, tighter coordination to reduce duplication, and stronger integration across food, housing, health, and welfare services. Across all sessions there was strong interest in ongoing CRF planning, recognition that HSF often acted as a gateway to wider support, and a shared call for more joined-up networks, better evidence, and sustained outreach to ensure marginalised communities are effectively reached.
- 6.8 A more detailed summary of these meetings is at Appendix 2, providing valuable insight into the impact of HSF.

- 6.9 The Poverty Reduction Steering Group has discussed the proposed allocations as set out in this report. There was a full discussion of the potential impact of different choices and broad agreement with the proposal allocations of the CRF.
- 6.10 The remaining two years of CRF funding will be informed by engagement with stakeholders to ensure that there is a balanced and strategic view of how to deliver the best outcomes from CRF through to 2029. Feedback received via the Inequality and Life Chances Review 2026, Pride in Place Programme and the Community Cohesion Roadmap will also inform future allocations. Further proposals will be brought to Cabinet later this year.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The funding sources set out in this report are based on the best information currently available. The 2026/27 to 2028/29 Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is a provisional allocation and yet to be confirmed. The provisional allocations for consolidated grants on the Government website sets out that the Council's allocation for CRF is 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 is £3.982m, £3.980m and £3.841m respectively.
- 7.2 The report proposes delegating authority to the S151 Chief Financial Officer following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration to make minor alterations to the allocation of the CRF in order to maximise its use in accordance with the relevant time constraints and any change to the final allocation from government.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted:
02/03/2026

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to the arrangements and allocation of the new Crisis and Resilience Fund which replaces the Household Support Fund and the Discretionary Housing Payments System. The new fund comprises crisis payments, housing payments, resilience services and community co-ordination. These are “key decisions” and are therefore being made by Cabinet in accordance with Part 2E of the Council’s Constitution.
- 8.2 The CRF grant is being given to the Council by the Government in accordance with Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The CRF will normally be distributed by the Council in accordance with section 1 Localism Act 2011, but other more specific statutory powers may be used, including section 17 Children Act 1989.
- 8.3 The CRF will need to be operated in accordance with the DWP Guidance referred to in the report. Officers will also need to ensure that any grant payments to voluntary sector and community organisations to assist in its distribution to individuals in need comply with Subsidy rules (previously State Aid). The ‘de minimis’ regulation exception should be considered

where relevant. Also, specifically any housing payments should take account of the case law referred to in the guidance to avoid any duplication of payments.

- 8.4 The Equality Act 2010 states that public bodies, when carrying out their functions, must have “due regard” to equalities objectives namely the need to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not (Equality Act 2010, Section 149). Cabinet will need to do this when considering this report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Allan Wells Date consulted: 18/02/2026

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 Approval of the recommendations in this report will enable the council to provide mitigating controls to address Strategic Risk 24 *failure to provide an equitable approach to ensure equality of access, outcomes and experiences for all*.
- 9.2 Failure to endorse the recommendations presents a risk that the council will be unable to submit its CRF Delivery Plan to the DWP by the deadline of 1 July 2026. The funding of posts within the council from 1 April also depends upon approval. There is a risk that voluntary and community sector organisations, that are reliant on these funds to support the most vulnerable people and households in the city, may not be able to function as required from 1 April 2026, as the funding has not been confirmed. There is also a risk that some council services that provide support, advice and financial assistance to the most vulnerable people and households in the city, cannot function as required from 1 April 2026, as the funding has not been confirmed.
- 9.3 There are delivery risks associated with the allocations i.e. that some allocations over or under spend. Outcomes and spend will be monitored through the monthly TBM process and reports to the DWP. Where over or under spends are identified, appropriate action will be taken in line with recommendation 2.3.

10. Equalities implications

- 10.1 The existing Equalities Impact Assessment for Household Support Fund and Fairness Fund substantively covers the same ground as the CRF. An updated version of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 3.
- 10.2 One of the changes for CRF is the withdrawal of FSM vouchers in the school holidays. The reduction of funding for FSM is covered in the EIA. This could impact intersecting groups due to the large cross-section of low-income households who currently receive the vouchers. The main body of this report deals with the proposed mitigations, and the national conditions that improve the situation for many households.

- 10.3 The changes required in monitoring the CRF will give officers an opportunity to improve the dataset with a view to updating the EIA as part of the co-design process for years two and three of the CRF.

11. Sustainability implications

- 11.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report. However, funding is proposed for energy advice and fuel poverty that is aimed at helping households to achieve greater energy efficiency or reduce energy use. In addition, CRF outcomes are broadly aligned with the Food Strategy Action Plan, which means that affordable food projects with sustainable aims are centred.

12. Health and Wellbeing implications

- 12.1 Allocations of the CRF are aimed at supporting delivery of the Cost of Living Plan and reducing the impacts of poverty for low-income households alongside supporting advice services (food, fuel and financial) to help people reach a more sustainable position. This has significant health and wellbeing benefits as poverty and debt are known to be significant contributors to ill-health, particularly mental health issues which has well researched links to debt.

13. Conclusion

- 13.1 The recommendations in this report, if approved, will enable the council to meet the requirements of the CRF, to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. The activities funded through the CRF will provide targeted support for households facing financial hardship, while also building longer-term resilience and community co-ordination.
- 13.2 A future report will be brought to Cabinet with proposed allocations for future years of the CRF, aligning with and informed by: learning from year one of the CRF, the Inequality and Life Chances Review 2026, the Pride in Place Programme and the Community Cohesion Roadmap, as well as specific CRF engagement events.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- Appendix 1: CRF allocations
- Appendix 2: feedback from partnership meetings
- Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment

2. Background documents

- [Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England \(1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029\) - GOV.UK](#)
- [Brighton & Hove Fairness Fund and Household Support Fund 2025-26 Report](#) presented to Cabinet on Thursday 20 March 2025 (item 179)
- [The Brighton & Hove Fairness Fund and Household Support Fund Report](#) presented to Cabinet on Thursday 17 October 2024 (item 80)
- [Cost of Living Update including the Household Support Fund 2023/24 Report](#) presented to Policy & Resources Committee on Thursday 16 March 2023 (item 144)
- [Cost of Living Update including the Household Support Fund Tranche 3 Report](#) presented to Policy & Resources Committee on Thursday 6 October 2022 (item 59)
- [Cost of Living Response including the Household Support Fund 2022 Report](#) presented to Policy & Resources Committee on Thursday 12 May 2022 (item 135)
- [Household Support Fund Report](#) presented to Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee on Thursday 4 November 2021 (item 19)
- [Interim Report on Covid Funds and the New Household Support Fund Report](#) presented to Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee on Thursday 21 April 2021 (item 35)
- [Discretionary Housing Payment Policy 2013 \(item 185\)](#) presented to Policy & Resources committee 2 May 2013.

Appendix 1: proposed allocations of 2026-27 Crisis and Resilience Fund

Crisis payments	Proposed 2026/27 allocation	
Crisis Payments (previously known as Local Discretionary Social Fund)	£	551,776.00
Food and Essentials Organisations	£	675,000.00
Impact Initiatives	£	64,142.00
Discretionary Council Tax Reduction (DCTR)	£	130,000.00
Children's Services / Section 17 payments	£	80,000.00
Best Start Family Hubs	£	60,000.00
Period poverty	£	10,000.00
Percentage of pot		39.45%
Total proposed allocation for Crisis Payments	£	1,570,918.00

Resilience Services	Proposed 2026/27 allocation	
Best Start Family Hubs	£	123,295.00
Cost of Living Events	£	36,638.00
Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)	£	25,000.00
Welfare Advisory Team	£	360,737.00
Voluntary and Community Sector advice and support	£	400,000.00
BHESCO	£	35,000.00
Percentage of pot		24.63%
Total proposed allocation for Resilience Services	£	980,670.00

Housing Payments	Actual 2026/27 allocation	
Discretionary Housing Payments	£	645,514.00
Percentage of pot		16.21%
Total allocation for Housing Element	£	645,514.00

Community Coordination	Proposed 2026/27 allocation	
Community coordination	£	60,000.00
Fairness Fund for People and Place	£	100,000.00
Percentage of pot		4.02%
Total proposed allocation for Community Cohesion	£	160,000.00

Staffing and Administration	Proposed 2026/27 allocation	
Crisis Payments and Community Hub Team	£	367,404.00
CRF management, support and evaluation	£	125,498.00
Discretionary Housing Payment admin	£	91,851.00
Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) dashboard	£	40,000.00
Percentage of pot		15.69%
Total proposed allocation for Staffing and Admin	£	624,753.00

Indicative budget available	£	3,981,855.00
Total allocation	£	3,981,855.00
Balance	£	-

Appendix 2: feedback from the Voluntary and Community Sector

HSF Review & CRF Planning Sessions

In September 2025, three review meetings were held with third party organisations in receipt of Household Support Fund (HSF) funding, with the aim of discussing the impact of HSF delivery over the previous 12 months, and starting to plan for the Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF), albeit without access to DWP guidance at the time.

Across the three review meetings, one of which was in person and two were online, organisations consistently praised the flexibility, speed, and light-touch administration of HSF6 and HSF7, which allowed frontline partners to respond rapidly to crisis needs without bureaucratic delay. Year-long allocations in HSF7 markedly improved planning, enabled quarterly reviews, and gave services the stability needed to build relationships, deliver outreach, and invest in more resilient models of support.

Community-embedded delivery remained a major strength: trusted organisations - food projects, youth groups, domestic abuse specialists, refugee support services, carers' organisations, and advice providers - were able to reach residents who would not engage with statutory systems. Many highlighted innovations such as integrated Family Hub models, social supermarkets, mobile/outreach advice sessions, multicultural community engagement, same-day emergency food provision, co-location with health or social care teams, and joint working between organisations such as SPIN, Pelican Parcels, YAC, Possability People, and BHESCO. The Hugg voucher platform was widely valued for speed, ease, and dignified distribution. Case studies shared across the sessions demonstrated how short-term financial interventions helped prevent job loss, stabilise housing, keep young people engaged in education or work, build confidence, and reduce longer-term crisis demand.

However, participants also identified structural weaknesses and emerging pressures. Many worried about duplication of support due to the absence of a shared data system and the reliance on unstructured email-based referral routes. Several reported supporting the same families repeatedly and called for more coordinated sequencing between agencies. Core costs and staffing were not covered under HSF, placing pressure on organisations delivering high-volume crisis support; this was particularly acute for smaller volunteer-run projects. Demand continued to rise - both in volume and complexity - driven by factors such as precarious work, high housing costs, and energy price increases. Refugee support was flagged as fragmented, with unclear pathways and overlapping referrals from Voices in Exile, Care for Calais, and statutory services; similarly, refuge and domestic abuse support needed more coordinated routes into financial and legal help. Temporary Accommodation (TA) remained a major issue, with families placed in unfurnished properties lacking essentials such as beds and carpets. Equity themes emerged throughout: ethnically diverse communities faced cultural stigma and language barriers; LGBTQ+ residents experienced intersectional challenges and often relied on informal networks; older adults benefited greatly from food and social contact in preventing isolation and hospital admission; and outreach remained essential for people in unstable housing or TA who could not access centralised hubs.

Looking ahead to the CRF, organisations strongly supported multi-year funding with built-in flexibility, enabling both continuity and the ability for new projects to join mid-cycle. Participants emphasised that resilience must include funded advice services, income maximisation, and early intervention; many noted the success of outreach PIP/DLA advice, social prescribing partnerships, and integrated housing-plus-welfare models. A cash-first approach was broadly endorsed for dignity and autonomy. Across the meetings there was consensus on the need for simple,

proportionate grant processes, should that become a feature of CRF. Also, recognition of core-cost pressures, improved data-sharing to reduce duplication, and intentional partnership-building rather than competitive siloed models. Participants also discussed the merits and limitations of hub-and-spoke approaches: they can be effective for coordinated delivery, but may be inaccessible or stigmatising for some marginalised communities, underscoring the need for trusted, hyper-local and bottom-up engagement. Organisations also emphasised system gaps—particularly in affordable food pathways, primary mental health, housing advice at community level, and better alignment with DWP processes, social workers, health teams, and safeguarding partners. Overall, the meetings demonstrated strong appetite for co-designing CRF; a recognition that HSF functioned as both crisis support and a gateway into wider services; and a shared commitment to building a future model that strengthens resilience, prevents crisis escalation, and ensures coordinated, equitable access to support across the city.

In March 2026, a CRF Review meeting was held with 40+ representatives from VCS organisations, food projects, advice agencies, family hubs, domestic abuse services, community hubs, DWP, and others. The purpose of the meeting was to engage with partners on CRF Year 1 proposals to inform the report to Cabinet and explore how the CRF criteria, outcomes and reporting requirements will work.

It was set out that Year 1 of the CRF focuses on distributing essential funding and standing up required strands (crisis payments, housing payments, resilience, community coordination). Years 2–3 will involve deeper engagement, redesign, and co-production.

Overall, there was:

- Broad agreement that Year 1 proposals are a **sensible stabilising transition**.
- A strong shared commitment to moving toward **resilience and prevention**, not just crisis response.
- Significant appetite for **co-design** and deeper partnership working.
- Acknowledgement that **capacity constraints** (both council and VCS) are real and must shape implementation.
- Appreciation for the expanded attendance and inclusive approach.

Key points from the discussion were:

Key Financial Pressures

- CRF includes the former DHP budget → increased pressure inside a single pot.
- Staffing cost inflation, combined with slightly reducing CRF, squeezes later years.

Major Policy Issues Raised in Discussion

- **Free School Meals (FSM) in Holidays**
 - National CRF rules: blanket FSM holiday vouchers not allowed under the guidance, must be **needs-based**, hardship-assessed, and not blanket.
 - **Financially impossible** for BHCC to replace via non-CRF funding.
 - Mitigations in Year 1:
 - Expand **Family Hubs** support in holidays.
 - Increase contribution to **HAF**, enabling **half-term** provision as well.
 - Run **cost-of-living events** again as a hub of support during holidays.
- **Crisis Payments (new LDSF)**
 - DWP target is a 48 hour turnaround

- Organisations noted this is workable **only if strong signposting alternatives exist** (e.g., Energyworks for fuel vouchers).
- **Housing Payments (formerly DHP)**
 - Demand traditionally outstrips funding.
 - Likely no room to expand eligibility (e.g., deposits) without cutting core rent-shortfall support.
 - Year 3 sees a **drop in DHP allocation**, creating risk.

VCS Sector Questions, Risks & Themes

Below is a summary of themes raised by the sector (from transcript + chat).

- How resilience will be defined and measured
- Are food-only or essentials-only organisations still eligible?
 - Yes — pure food provision reduces material deprivation (one of the formal CRF outcomes).
 - Future years likely require a gradual pivot toward more holistic / sustainable models (e.g. social supermarkets, wraparound support) — but not elimination of crisis food help.
- Onward referrals and partnership working
 - Strong appetite for **increased partnership working**, co-location, shared delivery, joint teams.
 - A desire for **resilience pathways that don't overload food projects**:
- Good practice examples:
 - **Wave** exploring credit-union + affordable food links.
 - **Tarner, HKP, Old Boat, Family Hubs** all cited as models of smart partnership working.

Data, Needs, and New Organisations

- Several orgs emphasised risk that:
 - Organisations **outside existing funding networks** may miss out.
 - Allocation based on “who is already funded” could entrench inequity.
- Calls for:
 - Use of **data and needs assessments**.
 - Space for new/emerging orgs to apply or demonstrate need.
 - Exploration of **thematic partnership bids** in future years (programme-based approaches).

Advice, Income Maximisation & Financial Inclusion

- Many want **greater weighting toward advice & income maximisation** in Years 2–3.
- Organisations want to see:
 - Advice Partnership playing a stronger role in shaping the resilience offer.
 - Possible VCS-led **Community Coordination** strand.
 - Better integration of council services (housing officers, social workers) with VCS frontline delivery.

Future Process, Engagement & Co-design (post-March)

- Not formal “consultation” — but **structured engagement**.
- Likely approach:
 - Topic-specific workshops.
 - Smaller design groups.
 - VCS-led proposals feeding back into the Poverty Reduction Steering Group.

- Strong appetite from VCS for co-design of resilience provision, community coordination, and transition to CRF maturity model.

Key Risks Identified

Year 1

- Managing transition from LDSF to Crisis Fund.
- Ensuring VCS projects can cope with demand spikes.
- Communicating major system changes clearly.
- Balancing low admin burden with increased MI reporting.

Year 2–3

- Funding squeeze due to staffing inflation & reduced DHP funding.
- Potential shift away from “many doors” model if budgets tighten.
- Risk that the most fragile organisations fall out of the ecosystem.
- Need for robust pathways between crisis help and resilience services.

General Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Support:

An [EIA toolkit](#), [workshop content](#), and guidance for completing an [Equality Impact Assessment \(EIA\) form](#) are available on the [EIA page](#) of the [EDI Internal Hub](#). Please read these before completing this form.

For enquiries and further support if the toolkit and guidance do not answer your questions, contact your Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Business Partner as follows:

- Economy, Environment and Culture (EEC) – [Chris Brown](#),
- Families, Children, and Learning (FCL) – [Jamarl Billy](#),
- Governance, People, and Resources (GPR) – [Eric Page](#).
- Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) – [Zofia Danin](#),
- Housing, Neighbourhoods, and Communities (HNC) – [Jamarl Billy](#)

Processing Time:

- EIAs can take up to 10 business days to approve after a completed EIA of a good standard is submitted to the EDI Business Partner. This is not considering unknown and unplanned impacts of capacity, resource constraints, and work pressures on the EDI team at the time your EIA is submitted.
- If your request is urgent, we can explore support exceptionally on request.
- We encourage improved planning and thinking around EIAs to avoid urgent turnarounds as these make EIAs riskier, limiting, and blind spots may remain unaddressed for the 'activity' you are assessing.

Process:

- Once fully completed, submit your EIA to your EDI Business Partner, copying in your Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager (if one exists in your directorate), Equalities inbox, and any other relevant service colleagues to enable EIA communication, tracking and saving.
- When your EIA is reviewed, discussed, and then approved, the EDI Business Partner will assign a reference to it and send the approved EIA form back to you with the EDI Manager or Head of Communities, Equality, and Third Sector (CETS) Service's approval as appropriate.
- Only approved EIAs are to be attached to Committee reports. Unapproved EIAs are invalid.

1. Assessment details

Throughout this form, 'activity' is used to refer to many different types of proposals being assessed.

Read the [EIA toolkit](#) for more information.

Name of activity or proposal being assessed:	Crisis and Resilience Fund
Directorate:	Governance, People and Resources (GPR)
Service:	Welfare, Revenues and Business Support (WRBS)

Team:	Welfare Support
Is this a new or existing activity?	Continuation of an existing activity, with some changes
Are there related EIAs that could help inform this EIA? Yes or No (If Yes, please use this to inform this assessment)	Yes, previous EIA's for Cabinet and Committee reports dealing with the Fairness Fund and Household Support Fund

2. Contributors to the assessment (Name and Job title)

Responsible Lead Officer:	Paul Ross-Dale and Tabitha Cork (Welfare Revenues & Business Support Managers)
Accountable Manager:	Lynsay Cook, Head of Service
Additional stakeholders collaborating or contributing to this assessment:	EDI Business Partner

3. About the activity

Briefly describe the purpose of the activity being assessed:

Allocation of £3.98m Crisis and Resilience Fund for the purposes of welfare support in the city.

What are the desired outcomes of the activity?

An effective and equitable distribution of support, linking crisis response to long-term solutions where possible, across the areas of emergency food, fuel poverty, community organisations helping those in need, and households experiencing extreme financial vulnerability. The outcomes are set out in the government's CRF guidance, falling into four categories:

- Crisis Payments
- Housing Payments
- Resilience (eg financial resilience and reduction of poverty / reliance on food support)
- Community Co-Ordination (which refers more to the infrastructure of support networks and how they connect to one another)

Which key groups of people do you think are likely to be affected by the activity?

A broad range of households and communities with different backgrounds, from across the city. Poverty and financial vulnerability tends to impact those with protected characteristics and minoritised identities or lived experiences more strongly.

4. Consultation and engagement

What consultations or engagement activities have already happened that you can use to inform this assessment?

- For example, relevant stakeholders, groups, people from within the council and externally consulted and engaged on this assessment. **If no consultation** has been done or it is not enough or in process – state this and describe your plans to address any gaps.

We have a regular dialogue with the voluntary sector and other council services, via the Welfare Support and Financial Assistance meetings, the Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth Steering Group, the Food Insecurity Group and other adhoc meetings through the year. The Council's Poverty Reduction Steering Group has oversight for welfare support and poverty reduction. Due to this network, we have extensive experience and knowledge of the impact of Household Support Fund (which preceded CRF) and the levels of demand in the city as far as crisis response is concerned.

5. Current data and impact monitoring

Do you currently collect and analyse the following data to enable monitoring of the impact of this activity? Consider all possible intersections.

(State Yes, No, Not Applicable as appropriate):

Age	Partial
Disability and inclusive adjustments, coverage under equality act and not	Partial
Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers)	Partial
Religion, Belief, Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism	Partial
Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and Intersex people)	Partial
Gender Reassignment	Partial
Sexual Orientation	Partial
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No
Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)	No
Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans	Partial
Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees	No
Carers	Partial
Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people	Partial
Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)	No
Socio-economic Disadvantage	Partial
Homelessness and associated risk and vulnerability	Partial
Human Rights	No

Additional relevant groups that may be widely disadvantaged and have intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers may include:

- Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
- Lone parents
- People experiencing homelessness
- People facing literacy and numeracy barriers
- People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
- People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
- People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery
- People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
- Sex workers

If you answered “NO” to any of the above, how will you gather this data to enable improved monitoring of impact for this activity?

The allocations of the fund bridge multiple organisations of varying size. Many of them are not resourced to collect and monitor data to the level that we would be able to conduct any detailed analysis. We do have some data about some of the protected characteristics for our awards from the Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF). We also have regular opportunities for soft input from all of our partner organisations, which helps to inform the future design of our welfare response. Under the CRF guidance, there are stronger requirements for data collection, although this may not directly correlate to protected characteristics. As part of the overall evolution of the welfare service to adapt to CRF, we will look at options for increasing our datasets, including whether the introduction of surveys for service users is feasible.

What are the arrangements you and your service have for monitoring, and reviewing the impact of this activity?

The range of activities is so broad that there is no easy way to monitor the impacts of the activity. There is a broadly ameliorative effect across all of the protected characteristics because the activities are about providing financial and wellbeing support to those who ask for help.

6. Impacts

Advisory Note:

- **Impact:**
 - Assessing disproportionate impact means understanding potential negative impact (that may cause direct or indirect discrimination), and then assessing the relevance (that is: the potential effect of your activity on people with protected characteristics) and proportionality (that is: how strong the effect is).
 - These impacts should be identified in the EIA and then re-visited regularly as you review the EIA every 12 to 18 months as applicable to the duration of your activity.
- **SMART Actions mean:** Actions that are (SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, T = Time-bound)
- **Cumulative Assessment:** If there is impact on all groups equally, complete **only** the cumulative assessment section.
- **Data analysis and Insights:**

- In each protected characteristic or group, in answer to the question ‘If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?’, describe what you have learnt from your data analysis about disproportionate impacts, stating relevant insights and data sources.
- Find and use contextual and wide ranges of data analysis (including community feedback) to describe what the disproportionate positive and negative impacts are on different, and intersecting populations impacted by your activity, especially considering for [Health inequalities](#), review guidance and inter-related impacts, and the impact of various identities.
- For example: If you are doing road works or closures in a particular street or ward – look at a variety of data and do so from various protected characteristic lenses. Understand and analyse what that means for your project and its impact on different types of people, residents, family types and so on. State your understanding of impact in both effect of impact and strength of that effect on those impacted.
- **Data Sources:**
 - **Consider a wide range (including but not limited to):**
 - [Population and population groups](#)
 - [Census 2021 population groups Infogram: Brighton & Hove by Brighton and Hove City Council](#)
 - [Census](#) and [local intelligence data](#)
 - Service specific data
 - Community consultations
 - Insights from customer feedback including complaints and survey results
 - Lived experiences and qualitative data
 - [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) data](#)
 - [Health Inequalities data](#)
 - Good practice research
 - National data and reports relevant to the service
 - Workforce, leaver, and recruitment data, surveys, insights
 - Feedback from internal ‘staff as residents’ consultations
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on intersectionality, accessibility, sustainability requirements, and impacts.
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on ‘who’ the most intersectionally marginalised and excluded under-represented people and communities are in the context of this EIA.

Learn more about the [Equality Act 2010](#) and about our [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

6.1 Age

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to any particular Age group? For example: those under 16, young adults, with other intersections.	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

<p><u>Older people:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost of Living (CoL) crisis affecting all age groups, but increased fuel costs make older people more vulnerable to unaffordable fuel bills. Older people are on a fixed income and cannot increase this as needed, through work. They may require additional heating, due to health conditions.
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- Older people with health problems are more likely to be housebound. As such they may be limited in their ability to shop for their essential needs or socialise.
- Older people more likely to have additional requirements for electronic health-related equipment, thus increasing costs
- Older people more likely to have more expensive food costs due to specialist dietary needs.
- Older people's health is more at risk if they cannot afford to heat their homes, eat adequately, or pay for essential medications / social care.
- Census figures show rise in population figures for age group 50+ (55 to 59 almost doubled since 2011)

Young people

- Brighton Youth Advice Centre (YAC) has confirmed a significant rise in young people under 25 presenting to them as struggling to manage their finances, despite not being eligible for means-tested benefits.
- Young people unable to budget for costs of applying for better jobs or providing for themselves and/or children in the future, which can cause financial stress / anxiety.
- Children at risk of insufficient or inadequate diets during school holidays, due to additional financial strains on the household, if school holiday vouchers are not provided.
- Young people less financially independent because of decrease in employment opportunities. More likely to be on a fixed income.
- The cost-of-living crisis has squeezed essential household income meaning those affected have had to adjust to lower income relative to inflation and other pressures
- Due to the rising costs of day-to-day essentials such as food and fuel, it is more difficult to manage on lower or fixed incomes.
- CRF will continue funding general and Housing advice for young people in YAC, that would otherwise have been cut. CRF will therefore prevent a disproportionate impact on young people.
- Young people engage more effectively with support provided by YAC than with formal statutory bodies
- The council's Corporate Parenting responsibility provides a duty towards children leaving care. An allocation of funding has been made to the Leaving Care team in recent HSF rounds and this will continue under CRF

6.2 Disability:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Disability , considering our anticipatory duty ?	YES
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If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

In the context of distributing funds for help, the issues concerned might be around the fair distribution and adequate coverage of assistance.

The following factors may be an issue for some Disabled people:

- Limited opportunity to increase their income to afford additional costs arising from their health/disability needs.
- The need to keep homes warm or properly ventilated for health reasons.
- Additional requirements for electronic health-related equipment.
- More likely to have more expensive food costs due to specialist dietary needs.
- The possibility of being housebound and/or experiencing social isolation

- May not have access to the shops or be able to shop widely for competitive prices.
- More likely to be digitally excluded and may not be able to access cheaper deals online.
- Negative effect on pre-existing mental illness as a direct result of managing rising costs.
- Those on a fixed income less likely to have savings or financial contingency for increased cost in food and other expenses.
- Neurodiverse people may not be able to request help or recognise the need for help in the same way as Neurotypical people.
- Our datasets in Housing Benefits, Council Tax and LDSF are very limited, even where the option is provided for clients to give information relating to protected characteristics. It is therefore not possible to draw meaningful conclusions from that data alone.
- High intersection of disabled people within the city's socially deprived areas.

What [inclusive adjustments](#) are you making for diverse disabled people impacted? For example: D/deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, blind, neurodivergent people, those with non-visible disabilities, and with access requirements that may not identify as disabled or meet the legal definition of disability, and have various intersections (Black and disabled, LGBTQIA+ and disabled).

The Crisis Payments team will be accessible via phone or email contact and support can be given by staff on the team to make applications for crisis support. The CRF is distributed through a wide range of third sector partners, with consideration to organisations who already have an established support route for those with protected characteristics

6.3 Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers):

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to ethnicity?	YES
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If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- More likely to be on a low or fixed income or having limited or variable hours of work.
- Residents with No Recourse to Public Funds including EU nationals without access to benefits in precarious employment or working in the black economy are already vulnerable to destitution if they lose employment.
- Some communities will have specific dietary needs.
- Black and Racially Minoritised households almost twice as likely to be in food poverty in Brighton and Hove according to Money Advice Plus
- BMECP previously reported demand so high they have had to prioritise families with children which increases the risk around BME young people and pensioners (BMECP)
- High number of requests for help with rent, 70% of which from residents not on benefits (BMECP)
- Specific dietary needs may be impacted by food shortages or price rises on high demand products.
- Emergency food support available may not include items specific to dietary needs.
- Language and cultural barriers mean some groups may not be aware of support available through grants, additional benefit support or crisis intervention routes (e.g., food banks, Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) etc.
- Our datasets in Housing Benefits, Council Tax and LDSF are very limited, even where the option is provided for clients to give information relating to protected characteristics. It is therefore not possible to draw meaningful conclusions from that data alone.

6.4 Religion, Belief, Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Religion, Belief, Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- Specific dietary needs can involve higher cost points as there is less availability.
- Emergency food support available may not include items specific to dietary needs. Council’s new Food Strategy Action Plan notes the need for training to be provided to the city’s emergency food providers around culturally specific dietary requirements.
- Language and cultural barriers mean some groups may not be aware of support available through grants, additional benefit support or crisis intervention routes (e.g., food banks, Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) etc.
- Using community partners to help deliver CRF means that some groups can be supported by organisations from within their own communities, where language barriers may be overcome and information can be shared by word of mouth. If CRF was only delivered through the council, this would provide a greater disadvantage to non-English speaking households.
- CRF funding for organisations means that there is a greater opportunity for communities to come together and gain mutual support
- Provision to faith-based organisations may mean that some people feel excluded if they are not part of the same faith group. However, there is a very broad provision among our delivery partners, most of whom are not faith-based.
- Our datasets in Housing Benefits, Council Tax and LDSF are very limited, even where the option is provided for clients to give information relating to protected characteristics. It is therefore not possible to draw meaningful conclusions from that data alone.

6.5 Gender Identity and Sex:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and intersex people)?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- Women are more likely to be working part time, or on a fixed income, than men and generally on lower comparative pay or experiencing pay gaps.
- Additional burdens due to the Cost of Living could have disproportionate impact on women due to the nature of their employment types and barriers to employment for those with sole childcare responsibilities.
- Single parents are more commonly women and are therefore also more likely to be subject to the Benefit Cap than men, which limits their welfare benefit income. With the sole burden of childcare requirements and lack of opportunities for work that couples may have, women are disproportionately affected under welfare benefit restrictions such as the Benefit Cap and the ‘Two Child Limit’ and therefore more likely to be living in financial hardship.

- Women with mental health problems are more likely to be financially burdened than men with mental health problems [Through-the-lens_Gender-money-and-mental-health.pdf](#)
- Women, genderqueer and non-binary people can face additional financial costs, such as for period products

6.6 Gender Reassignment:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Gender Reassignment ?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- More likely to be financially disadvantaged or living on a fixed income.
- LGBTQ+ people, particularly trans people, tend to be paid substantially less than those outside of the community.
- Trans people are more likely to be in precarious employment or housing.
- Those on a fixed income less likely to have savings or financial contingency for increased cost in fuel and food expenses.
- Trans community can have additional costs as part of transition process that they struggle to meet due to cost of food / fuel.
- Lack of family support network for residents who have come to Brighton to be part of a community.
- Trans people are more likely to be further excluded or impacted due to intersections with Racialised and ethnic backgrounds, migrant/ refugee/ asylum seeker experiences, and disability.
- Mental health is a significant issue for the trans community, which can have intersections with income security and debt.

Organisations supporting LGBTQ+ community are increasingly at risk due to reduced funding.

6.7 Sexual Orientation:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Sexual Orientation ?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- Intersection of LGBTQ+ issues with young people who gravitate to the city or remain in the city after higher education for community reasons, which can then lead to financial vulnerability. For example, due to high housing costs locally.
- Possible lack of family support network.
- QTIPOC barriers unknown in detail, including intersections with disabilities, neurodivergence, autism.

6.8 Marriage and Civil Partnership:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Marriage and Civil Partnership?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strain of economic pressures and debt caused by an increase in the cost of living can impact on the relationships of householders and their Mental Health. • In incidents of fleeing Domestic Violence the family is often relocated away from their network of family and friends. • Single parents can have less ability to increase their earned income and may be disproportionately impacted by welfare restrictions such as the Benefit Cap and the Two Child Limit. • Single and same sex households with other intersections such as Black and Racially Minoritised, migrant, women-only, disabled households and QTPOC and trans and non-binary households may likely be experiencing additional strains due to Cost of Living increases and pay gaps as well as social deprivation and other impacts.
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6.9 Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum):

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already reduced income placed under greater pressure due to cost-of-living (CoL). • Reduced income risks deepening or newly establishing debt. • Unable to comfortably adapt to additional costs associated with CoL, i.e., pressure on household budget impacts ability to buy baby food and other essentials. • Less able to buy in more food to manage holiday periods if there is no provision for vouchers in the school holidays, as well as post-natal period when less able to get out. • Our awareness of intersectional impacts due to different identities and layers of barriers is limited.
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6.10 Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Armed Forces Members and Veterans?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Veterans and forces families can face significant intersecting vulnerabilities: PTSD and complex mental health needs affecting financial management, difficulty navigating civilian welfare systems, housing instability especially for younger veterans, and cultural barriers to seeking help.

BHCC has recently re-signed the Armed Forces Covenant. When the detailed funding distribution is made, officers will check to ensure that there is a route for veterans to access support (for example, signposting routes for RBLI, SSAFA, or local veteran hubs)

6.11 Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum seekers, Refugees, those New to the UK, and UK visa or assigned legal status? (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections)	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) households may be at particular financial risk if not eligible for all support mechanisms that have been put in place.
- Residents with insecure immigration status may fear contacting the authorities in case their details are shared with the Home Office.
- CRF is one of the few resources available to help people with NRPF.
- Voices in Exile, for example, receive funding to assist clients directly and no personal data is shared with statutory authorities without consent
- Intersections with disability, being Black and Racially Minoritised, belonging to minoritised faiths and religions, being trans, , non-binary and intersex (TNBI), having caring responsibilities and domestic violence exposure/ lived experience can be further impacts due to increasing cost of living pressures.

6.12 Carers:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Carers (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

- More likely to be on a limited and fixed income due to caring requirements.
- More likely to have higher fuel costs due to health or disability requirements of the people they care for.

- Those on a fixed income less likely to have savings or financial contingency for increased cost in food and other expenses.
- Depending on intersections with other communities of identity, access and awareness of funds and support may be lacking e.g. those from Transgender, Non-Binary and Intersex (TNBI) backgrounds, some disabled people from non-White non-English non-UK backgrounds, migrants.

6.13 Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people:

<p>Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced children and adults (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).</p> <p>Also consider our Corporate Parenting Responsibility in connection to your activity.</p>	<p>YES</p>
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Financial Independence at a Young Age: Care leavers are expected to be financially independent from the age of 18, unlike their peers who often remain financially supported by their families until their mid-20s. This abrupt transition can lead to financial instability and hardship.

Limited Access to Higher Education: Many care-experienced individuals face barriers to higher education, which can limit their career opportunities and earning potential. For example, those in residential care have a significantly lower chance of achieving higher educational qualifications compared to those in parental care

Employment Challenges: Care leavers often struggle to find stable employment due to a lack of qualifications, work experience, and support networks. This can result in lower income and job insecurity

Cost of Living Pressures: The cost of living crisis disproportionately affects care leavers, who may not have the financial safety net that others do. They are more vulnerable to financial shocks and may struggle to afford basic necessities

Health Inequalities: Poor health outcomes among care-experienced individuals can lead to increased medical expenses and reduced earning capacity. They are more likely to suffer from mental health issues and chronic illnesses, which can further exacerbate financial difficulties

6.14 Homelessness:

<p>Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to people experiencing homelessness, and associated risk and vulnerability? (Especially considering for age, veteran, ethnicity, language, and various intersections)</p>	<p>YES</p>
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Many clients accessing crisis support will be at risk of homelessness.

- Homelessness places women at a significant financial disadvantage as well as impacting on their mental health and the wellbeing of the family.
- Limited or no access to support from family and friends
- Without a network of support, increased expenses may follow due to a loss of informal childcare. Or hours of work may need to be reduced.
- More expenses associated with being relocated further away from schools and GP surgeries.
- More likely to be susceptible to infection and other health concerns from lack of shelter and warmth.
- More likely to have poor nutrition which will impact on a person's health and wellbeing.
- Less able to access support services, including benefits and bank accounts.

6.15 Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, people in vulnerable situations:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Domestic Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)?	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

In incidents of fleeing Domestic Violence the family is often relocated away from their network of family and friends

Those fleeing or living with Domestic Abuse may be less able to maintain employment and therefore a regular income.

Those living with Domestic Abuse may be subject to financial control or abuse. This may be more challenging for those with TNBI, disabled, some faiths, Black and Racially Minoritised and Migrant/ refugee/ asylum seeker lived experiences.

6.16 Socio-economic Disadvantage:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Socio-economic Disadvantage? (Especially considering for age, disability, D/deaf/ blind, ethnicity, expatriate background, and various intersections)	YES
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If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The nature of the CRF is to mitigate socio-economic disadvantage.

Support for grass-roots and community based organisations strengthens local support networks for people with protected characteristics and has a positive impact on creation of access and equity. This is particularly the case for disabled, D/deaf/deafened, blind, migrant/ refugee/ asylum seeker, QTIPOC, TNBI and Black and Racially Minoritised communities. There is also consideration of an appropriate geographical reach to allow access for all disadvantaged communities.

The threshold for Free School Meals eligibility is proportionately high, compared to some other forms of welfare support and the eligibility pool is set to double with a rule change coming in September 2026. However, one big change in CRF is that there can no longer be blanket provision of Free School Meal vouchers in the school holidays. Those who are entitled to Free School Meals will be on Universal Credit, but this does not necessarily mean that every household on UC is experiencing acute crisis. However, it is clear that removing FSM in the holidays will impact low income households. CRF support is distributed broadly via multiple council services and third sector organisations. There is no restriction on the number of times a household can access support through multiple avenues. Therefore the impact from this specific funding reduction is mitigated by their ability to access further support if necessary. A communication plan is being drawn up to ensure that families with the most need are aware of avenues of assistance, and that those areas with highest FSM eligibility rates will be signposted to the new programmes.

Additionally the programme for CRF includes increased staffing at the Best Start Family Hubs, and additional funding for Holidays Activities and Food programmes, so that providers can now operate during half terms. The national picture for child poverty has also been ameliorated by a number of government measures, including the expansion of Breakfast Clubs, the aforementioned expansion of FSM eligibility, and the removal of the two-child benefit limit. The government's combined measures are intended to lift 400,000 children out of child poverty.

It is recognised that the populations identified by this EIA may struggle disproportionately to manage a multi-step process to find equivalent support. This is why one of the mitigations includes increasing the resource at Best Start Family Hubs to assist clients. The standard process of providing crisis funding to our partnership organisations means that they are supported to support their clients.

6.17 Human Rights:

Will your activity have a disproportionate impact relating to Human Rights?	YES
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If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The following articles are relevant to populations covered elsewhere in this EIA

Article 8 (private and family life), Article 3 (freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment -relevant to destitution), and Article 6 (fair access to processes) rights are live and relevant.

The design of the fund is intended to improve the situation for households and therefore lessen any impact on their Human Rights. None of the measures outlined in the CRF distribution proposals would have a negative impact on Human Rights.

6.18 Cumulative, multiple [intersectional](#), and complex impacts (including on additional relevant groups):

What cumulative or complex impacts might the activity have on people who are members of multiple Minoritised groups?

- For example: people belonging to the Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller community who are also disabled, LGBTQIA+, older disabled trans and non-binary people, older Black and Racially Minoritised disabled people of faith, young autistic people.
- Also consider wider disadvantaged and intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers:
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
 - People facing literacy and numeracy barriers
 - Lone parents
 - People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
 - Sex workers
 - Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
 - People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
 - People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery

There is a strong degree of intersectionality across all protected characteristics when it comes to poverty, debt and the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis. Many of our vulnerable households will also face barriers of accessibility around technology, including digital literacy and availability of tablets, smart phones, and data to access online services. The multidoor approach through third sector organisations and the council's customer service centres and libraries means that the impact is mitigated. Literacy and numeracy issues impact on employability, and this has a direct impact on the ability for households to lift themselves out of poverty. An example of this is when benefit households are benefit-capped, but cannot easily access employment to become exempt from the cap.

7. Action planning

What SMART actions will be taken to address the disproportionate and cumulative impacts you have identified?

- Summarise relevant SMART actions from your data insights and disproportionate impacts below for this assessment, listing appropriate activities per action as bullets. (This will help your Business Manager or Fair and Inclusive Action Plan (FIAP) Service representative to add these to the Directorate FIAP, discuss success measures and timelines with you, and monitor this EIA's progress as part of quarterly and regular internal and external auditing and monitoring)

1. Ensure that referral pathways are clear for all clients, channelling them to appropriate help, and making inclusive and compassionate adjustments in keeping with the Accessible City and Anti-Racism strategies wherever possible.
2. Review training plan and availability of awareness resources for staff regarding protected characteristics and proactively develop understanding around intersectionality, diverse lived experiences and any other areas that may be a knowledge gap.
3. Broad distribution of financial support to organisations in the voluntary sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for food and essentials will go to 60+ organisations, including those focussed on protected characteristics and specialists such as Voices in Exile
4. Practice being a listening council through proactive practice and engagement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings involving the Voluntary and Community Sector (for example Welfare Support and Financial Assistance meeting/ Fuel and Affordable Warmth Steering Group) to hear the latest impacts of Cost of Living on specific client groups.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure representation of voice is intersectional and across age groups and lived experiences, especially for those from Black and Racially Minoritised, QTIPOC, and TNBI communities. • A six-monthly review meeting with organisations who are distributing the CRF to gather feedback about impact of the fund, and emerging trends/issues • A progress and outcomes report will be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting regarding the latest round of CRF
5. Ensure that the council's Cost of Living hub on the website remains accessible for as many people as possible, especially from a disability, Easy Read and BSL provision, and migrant/ refugee/ asylum seeker perspective. Community Hub to provide ongoing support for those who find online access difficult. Every access route will have a non-digital alternative.
6. Invest in support programmes where advice is aligned alongside practical support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy advice • Financial advice • Debt advice

Which action plans will the identified actions be transferred to?

- For example: Team or Service Plan, Local Implementation Plan, a project plan related to this EIA, FIAP (Fair and Inclusive Action Plan) – mandatory noting of the EIA on the Directorate EIA Tracker to enable monitoring of all equalities related actions identified in this EIA. This is done as part of FIAP performance reporting and auditing. Speak to your Directorate's Business Improvement Manager (if one exists for your Directorate) or to the Head of Service/ lead who enters actions and performance updates on FIAP and seek support from your Directorate's EDI Business Partner.

Local team/ service implementation and practice plan.

8. Outcome of your assessment

What decision have you reached upon completing this Equality Impact Assessment? (Mark 'X' for any ONE option below)

Stop or pause the activity due to unmitigable disproportionate impacts because the evidence shows bias towards one or more groups.	
Adapt or change the activity to eliminate or mitigate disproportionate impacts and/or bias.	
Proceed with the activity as currently planned – no disproportionate impacts have been identified, or impacts will be mitigated by specified SMART actions.	X
Proceed with caution – disproportionate impacts have been identified but having considered all available options there are no other or proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the activity (for example, in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore, you are going to proceed with caution with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision.	

If your decision is to "Proceed with caution", please provide a reasoning for this:

Summarise your overall equality impact assessment recommendations to include in any committee papers to help guide and support councillor decision-making:

The distribution of the CRF is in itself a mitigation for the impacts of the Cost of Living crisis on individuals with protected characteristics. Broad access to the fund will help to ensure that help is distributed as fairly as possible, reaching households most in need. A number of actions have been identified to ensure equity and intersectional considerations and approach which will be reviewed as required.

9. Publication

All Equality Impact Assessments will be published. If you are recommending, and choosing not to publish your EIA, please provide a reason:

10. Directorate and Service Approval

Signatory:	Name and Job Title:	Date: DD-MMM-YY
Responsible Lead Officer:	Paul Ross-Dale and Tabitha Cork (WRBS Managers in the Welfare Revenues & Business Support Service)	06/03/2026
Accountable Manager:	Lynsay Cook, Head of Service Hub and Elizabeth Griffiths, Chief Finance Officer	09/03/2026

Notes, relevant information, and requests (if any) from Responsible Lead Officer and Accountable Manager submitting this assessment:

EDI Review, Actions, and Approval:

[Equality Impact Assessment sign-off](#)

EIA Reference number assigned:

For example, HNC##-25-Dec-23-EIA-Home-Energy-Saving-Landlord-Scheme

EDI Business Partner to cross-check against aims of the equality duty, public sector duty and our civic responsibilities the activity considers and refer to relevant internal checklists and guidance prior to recommending sign-off.

Once the EDI Business Partner has considered the equalities impact to provide first level approval for by those submitting the EIA, they will get the EIA signed off and sent to the requester copying the Head of

Service, Business Improvement Manager, [Equalities inbox](#), any other service colleagues as appropriate to enable EIA tracking, accountability, and saving for publishing.

Signatory:	Name:	Date: DD-MMM-YY
EDI Business Partner:	Eric Page	Thu 5 th Feb 2026
EDI Manager:		-

Notes and recommendations from EDI Business Partner reviewing this assessment:

See comments for further reflection or suggestions throughout the doc, but the EIA is otherwise fit for purpose and demonstrates genuine engagement with complexity and intersectionality.

Notes and recommendations (if any) from EDI Manager reviewing this assessment:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 150

Subject: Best Start in Life Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services

Lead Officer: Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing

Contact Officer: Joanne Templeman

Email: joanne.templeman@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report details the draft Best Start in Life Strategic Plan 2026-2029 (Appendix 1). The final plan is to be published on 31st March 2026 in line with DfE requirements.
- 1.2 Brighton and Hove City Council has provisionally been allocated £1,978,700 grant funding from the DfE for the period 2026–2029. The Best Start in Life Strategic plan is a funding requirement to support with Best Start in Life programme expectations, achievement of statutory targets for good level of development at the end of reception year and use of approved evidence-based interventions (EBIs).
- 1.3 The Best Start in Life Strategic Plan directly supports the Council Plan mission of delivering A Better Brighton & Hove for All by improving early years outcomes, reducing inequalities, and ensuring families can access integrated, evidence-based support. Through strengthened Best Start Family Hubs and a focus on the Good Level of Development, the plan contributes to the Council's ambition for a fairer, more inclusive city where all children can thrive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet agrees the Best Start in Life Strategic Plan 2026-2029 (Appendix 1) and for this to be published on 31st March 2026 and authorises the Corporate Director - Families, Children and Wellbeing to make any

necessary minor non-material text and illustrative alterations prior to its publication.

3. Context and background information

3.1 Best Start is the national blueprint for expansion of the community element of the existing DfE Family Hubs Model Framework & Service Expectations, embedding a sustainable community-based offer for families by strengthening existing universal, preventative and targeted support.

3.2 Locally, the strategic commitment, investment and developments undertaken following the Early Help Review and subsequent Family Hubs Transformation programme plus self-assessments, have ensured a solid foundation for Brighton & Hove to implement Best Start in Life and expand the Family Hubs community offer in line with government policy.

3.3 The Best Start in Life programme aims to:

- **Support families with children aged 0-19:** Provide integrated, community-based services through Family Hubs, improve health and maternity care, and offer digital parenting resources.
- **Reduce inequalities & boost outcomes:** Ensure 75% of five-year-olds nationally achieve a Good Level of Development by 2028. For Brighton & Hove, the statutory targets are 78.6% overall GLD and 58.7% for disadvantaged children by 2027/28.
- **Expand childcare access:** Deliver 30 hours of funded childcare from nine months old, increase nursery places, and support children with SEND.
- **Improve early education quality:** Recruit and retain skilled early years teachers, strengthen Ofsted oversight, and promote evidence-based practice.

3.4 The plan aims to support delivery and track progress toward achievement of the statutory GLD targets, and we will introduce a Best Start dashboard with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as part of the programme assurance metrics. These KPIs will focus on:

- **Reach and Engagement:** The number of families supported to begin evidence-based interventions both in person and online, and completion rates.
- **Coverage:** The extent specific cohorts are reached, including disadvantaged families and those with historically lower levels of engagement, subject to data availability.
- **Impact:** Evidence of change, such as the number of parents reporting improvements in parenting confidence, child development outcomes, or other relevant measures.

3.5 The Best Start in Life Plan sets out how Brighton & Hove will ensure every baby and young child grows up healthy, happy and ready to learn, with parents able to access trusted, joined-up support from pregnancy to starting school. The plan brings together Family Hubs, health services, early

education, childcare, SEND services, schools, libraries and the voluntary sector to create a coherent citywide offer.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 Brighton & Hove has statutory targets: 78.6% of all children and 58.7% of disadvantaged children reaching a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of reception year by 2028. The plan sets out how Brighton & Hove will deliver Best Start Services to meet this target.
- 4.2 Prior to beginning the development of the strategic plan there was a year long review and gap analysis through the multi agency Best Start in Life strategy group (formerly Start for Life strategy group) and family voice engagement sessions which have informed the plan alongside the data shown within the plan (appendix 1). The review and engagement with families helped shape the 4 key priority areas and cross cutting themes.
- 4.3 Through the review and gap analysis it was identified that a focus was needed on early language and communication which has been addressed through priority 2. Health and Wellbeing will continue to be a focus through priority 4 and aligns with the council's Starting Well plan and the neighbourhood health plans.
- 4.4 Family feedback identified the need for easily accessible information and support that meets their needs and is a theme throughout the plan. Priority 4 focuses on helping families access information and support and through all priorities the plan aims to provide high quality service when and where families need them with a focus on those facing disadvantage or with SEND.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 Throughout the family hubs transformation there has been ongoing engagement with families, communities and partners.
- 5.2 There have been specific Best Start in Life family voice sessions to hear from families and shape the plan including 2 in person sessions in January and February 2026. The Family Voice and engagement officers have been attending events and groups to meet directly with parents from September 2025 to date. This feedback has informed the development of the cross-cutting themes and priority areas as outlined in section 4.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report are funded through the Best Start in Life family hubs Grant. Brighton & Hove City Council is set to receive a provisional allocation of £1.979 million over three years from 2026/27 to 2028/29, with £225,000 specifically for capital projects. For the 2026/27 financial year, the council will get £694,200, including £73,500 earmarked for capital expenses. The grant requires that funds be used for additional service delivery, meet program guidelines, and achieve statutory targets. If these conditions aren't met, the funding may be reduced or withheld.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (17/02/26):

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Serena Kynaston Date consulted 19.02.2026

8. Risk implications

8.1 The DfE requires Brighton & Hove City Council to publish a Best Start Plan by 31st March 2026 to meet the funding requirements for the Best Start Grant.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 The Best Start in Life Strategic plan is focused on providing accessible services to families with children from conception to 5 years to meet their unique individual needs. The plan addresses the need to target support for families with English as an additional language, SEND and families facing disadvantage through the priorities and cross cutting themes.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability implications.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 A priority area for the Best Start Strategic Plan is focused on health and wellbeing for children and families linked to the neighbourhood health plan and Starting Well plan. (see Appendix 3, priority 3)

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 There are no procurement implications.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 There are no implications.

14. Conclusion

14.1 The Best Start in Life Strategic plan meets the national requirements and has been developed in partnership with health partners, the voluntary and community sector, early years settings, schools and families to provide local priorities based on need and feedback.

- 14.2 As outlined in the report, the plan will focus on easy to access, high quality information, advice and support for all families with children from conception to five ensuring services work together to meet the needs of children and families to improve outcomes. There will be a focus on supporting those most at need which can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 14.3 The plan will ensure a clear direction for delivery to work towards the good level of development target for 2028.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

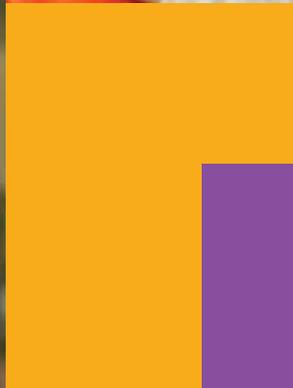
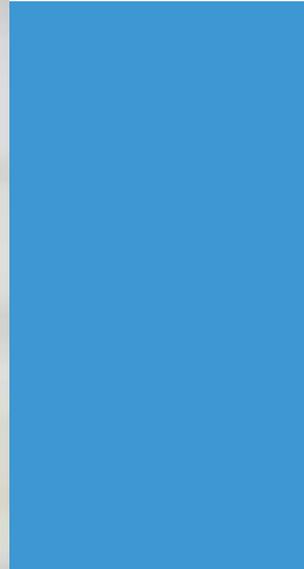
1. Best Start in Life Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Best Start in Life strategic plan



BEST
START
IN LIFE

2026 - 2029



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Vision

In Brighton & Hove, we want every baby and young child to grow up healthy, happy and ready to learn. We will make sure parents and carers can easily access trusted support and information from pregnancy through the child's early years, with strong relationships at the heart of our work.

Why Best Start in Life?

Every child in Brighton & Hove deserves the chance to grow, learn and thrive and this starts from pregnancy right through the early years. These first few years are when a child's brain is developing at its fastest, and the experiences children have in the first 1001 days help shape how they build relationships, manage their emotions, and learn new skills as they grow.

When families have the right support, children flourish, but we know that some families face extra challenges, such as financial pressure, stress or not knowing where to find trusted advice. These things can make it harder for children to reach their full potential.

Across the country, including in Brighton & Hove, some children start school already experiencing inequalities in their development. Nationally, by 2028, the

government wants **75% of children to reach a Good Level of Development**. To ensure this happens, families need to be able to access trusted services, good quality early education and childcare, and support from pregnancy onwards.

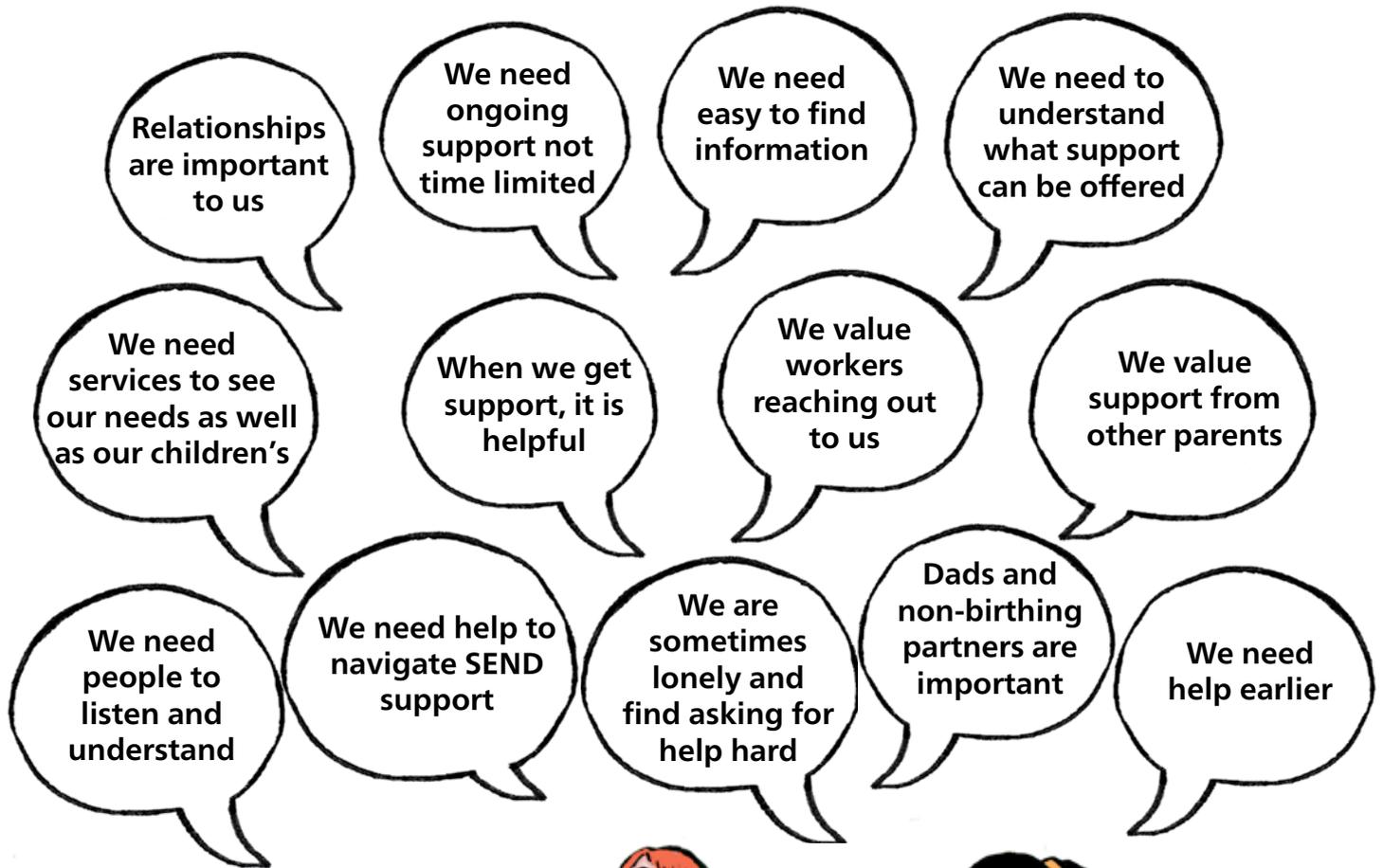
Brighton & Hove is committed to helping families with young children by bringing together our Best Start Family Hubs, early years services, health teams, childcare providers, reception classes and community groups. **Our Best Start in Life strategic plan** is designed to make sure families can get the right help at the right time, without having to navigate a complicated system.

This Plan also supports national efforts to make childcare more affordable and accessible, strengthen family services, and ensure the early years workforce is confident and well-trained. Local councils, including ours, play a key role in reducing inequalities and supporting children's early development and family wellbeing.

By investing in the earliest years of children's lives now, we are building a healthier, happier future not just for them, but for our whole community. Together, we want to ensure every child in Brighton & Hove has the very best start in life.



What families told us



FAMILY VOICE

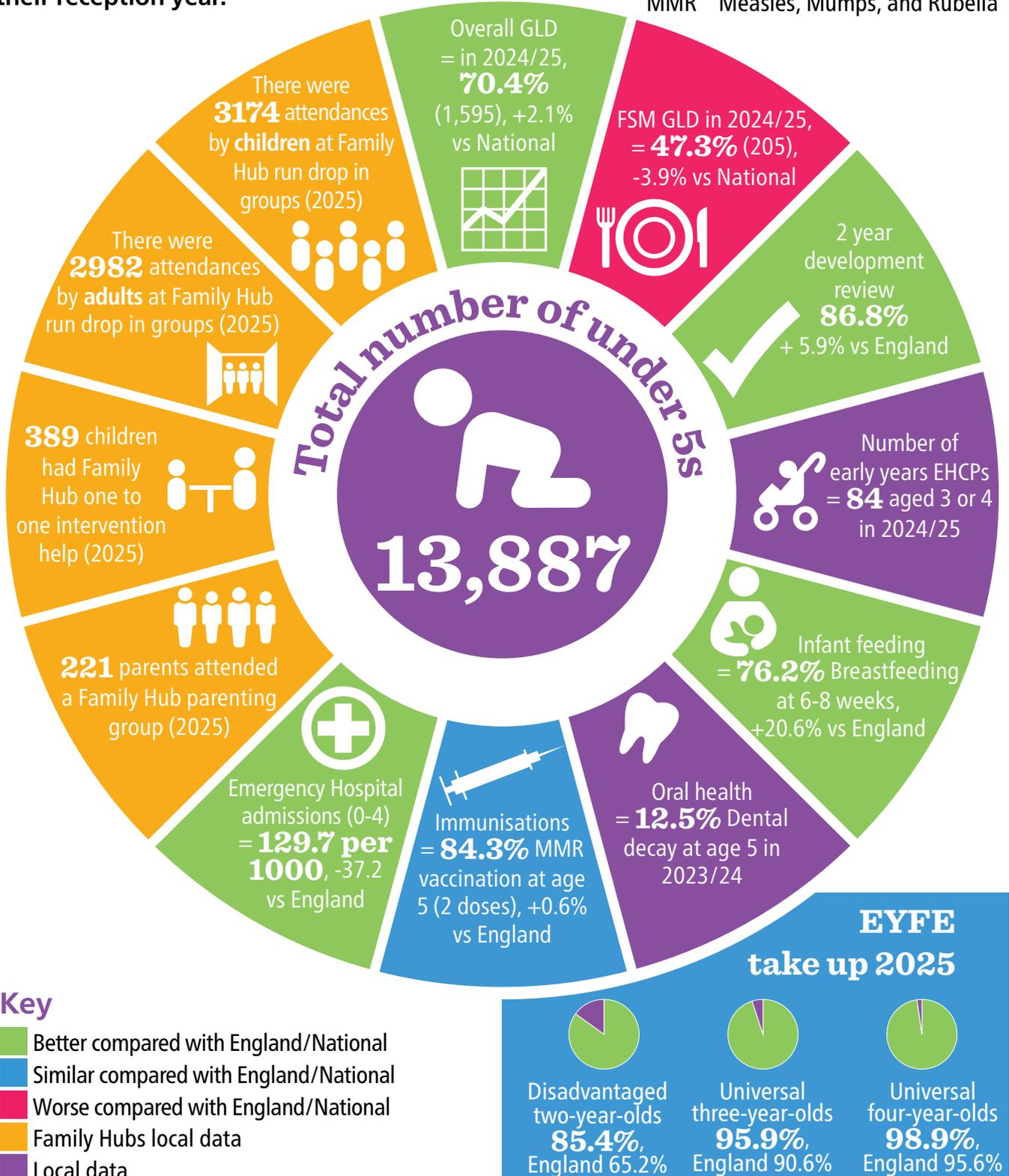
Where we are now

Our local statutory target

Brighton & Hove is working to ensure **78.6%** of all children and **58.7%** of disadvantaged children reach a good level of development by 2028. This will be measured at the end of their reception year.

Abbreviations

- EHCP Education Health and Care Plan
- EYFE Early Years Free Entitlement
- FSM Free School Meals
- GLD Good Level of Development
- MMR Measles, Mumps, and Rubella



Key

- Better compared with England/National
- Similar compared with England/National
- Worse compared with England/National
- Family Hubs local data
- Local data

Over the last three years, Brighton & Hove has been making changes to improve how we support children and families, from pregnancy through to 19 years (and up to 25 for young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)). We have developed four main Family Hubs, with additional spoke sites, so families can access joined up support close to home.

We focus on what each family needs and work in a way which puts relationships, trust and understanding at the centre of everything we do. We work closely with health services, early years settings, and voluntary, community and faith groups to make support easier to access. We have also aligned Health Visiting with Family Hubs and successfully expanded free childcare for young children, helping more families get the support they need, when they need it.

The Family Hubs are the central point for delivering services to families which include:



Navigation and signposting



Volunteering



Midwifery



Council run nurseries



Parenting



Reducing parental conflict



Infant feeding



Special Educational Needs (SEND) support



Early language support



Whole family work



Perinatal mental health



Support to access childcare



Cost of living, food and employment support



Health Visiting



Parent infant psychotherapy



Health and wellbeing



Housing

Over the last year we have worked with our partners to review what is working well for children and families from conception to five and what we need to do to improve.

Throughout our journey we have engaged with children and families to adapt and improve our offer and this Best Start in Life strategic plan will enable us to continue this work.

Priority 1

Helping young children thrive

We want to give every child in Brighton & Hove the strongest possible start. This means stepping in early to support children's health, wellbeing and learning, so they can grow with confidence. We know that children's early experiences shape their future,

and that some families face challenges which make it harder to get the support they need. Our aim is to make sure every family can access the right help early on, including early years education, so all children have the chance to thrive.



We will work together to:

- Focus more support in the areas where families need it most, so all children have the same chance to thrive
- Identify any developmental needs as early as possible, so families can get the help they need when they need it
- Make sure every child can access high quality early learning, including those facing disadvantage or with SEND, alongside providers and school based nurseries
- Offer proven, high quality parenting and home learning programmes that help children and families learn and develop well, with a focus on parent-child interaction and the importance of home learning

How will we know we have made a difference

- Families in disadvantaged areas have more locally available programmes to support parenting and home learning
Measure: Attendance at parenting and home learning
- Staff can signpost families to appropriate support as soon as it is identified
Measure: Navigator data
- Families access the high quality early learning they are entitled to
Measure: Early Years Free Entitlement take up including children with SEND
- Families who are accessing home learning and parenting programmes report improved outcomes
Measure: Impact data for those attending parenting and home learning

Priority 2

Helping children learn, talk, play and communicate

The way young children learn, talk, play and communicate starts at home. Everyday moments like chatting together, sharing a book, or playing help build children's

language, social skills and confidence. These early experiences also help prepare them for nursery and school, where high quality early education can make a big difference too, especially for children who may need a little extra support.



We will work together to:

- Help children develop their speech and communication early, with extra support for children more likely to experience early language difficulties, including those facing disadvantage or with SEND
- Offer proven early language programmes to support speech and language development and build strong home learning routines including the importance of limiting screen time in the early years
- Ensure all early years settings provide language rich, high quality learning environments, supported by national standards and staff training
- Support reception teachers to help children develop strong speaking, listening and early reading skills, giving them the best start at school

How will we know we have made a difference

- Create a Speech and Language Pathway to be used by health teams, early years settings and Best Start Family Hubs
Measure: Pathway developed and numbers accessing speech, communication and language support
- Families who are accessing home learning and parenting programmes report improved outcomes
Measure: Impact data for those attending parenting and home learning programmes
- Early years staff access training and support for language and communication development
Measure: Numbers attending training and support and environment audits
- Reception teachers access training and support for language and communication development
Measure: Numbers attending training and support

Priority 3

Helping young children and their families with health and wellbeing

Keeping children and families healthy and happy in their early years helps them thrive and sets them up for life-long wellbeing. We

want to make sure every child has the support they need to enjoy a healthy start in life.



We will work together to:

- Support children and families to understand the importance of physical activity and healthy eating
- Ensure that parents and carers have access to information and advice about the importance of childhood immunisations with a focus on groups who do not currently immunise
- Ensure that staff across Best Start services are trained to provide information and advice on health topics with a focus on asthma, oral health and toothbrushing
- Support parents and carers to access high quality mental health information, advice and support during pregnancy and beyond

How will we know we have made a difference

- More children at the end of reception will be a healthy weight with an increased number of children active for at least one hour a day
Measure: National child measurement programme
- Families are well informed and take up immunisations
Measure: Increase in take-up of all childhood immunisations including seasonal flu
- Best Start staff access training and support on health topics including asthma and oral health
Measure: Numbers attending training and support, increase in primary schools achieving the Asthma Aware or Asthma Friendly Award
- Parents and carers accessing the mental health and wellbeing information, support and services they need
Measure: Parents and carers report timely access to effective support

Priority 4

Helping families access the information and support they need

We want it to be simple for families to get the help they need as their child grows. Our Best Start Family Hubs will be at the heart of this, bringing together support for pregnancy,

health, early education and family help all in one place. We are working to make these services more joined up, easier to access and better connected, so families do not have to navigate a lot of different systems to get the right support.



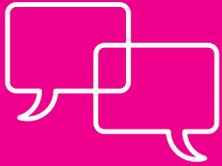
We will work together to:

- Make sure every family can easily access all the support and groups available in their local Best Start Family Hub whether that is online, visiting the Hub, in the community or by speaking to someone in person
- Ensure families can access information about proven high quality parenting and home learning programmes that help children learn and develop well
- Reach out to families who might find it harder to access support and offer friendly, practical help including support from other parents and carers who have been there too
- Ensure staff are trained to support every family with a child starting school and they have the information to help them be reception ready

How will we know we have made a difference

- Families can access Best Start Family Hub services
Measure: Navigator data and group and interventions attendance data
- Families accessing home learning and parenting programmes are reporting improved outcomes
Measure: Impact data for those attending parenting and home learning
- Families have access to peer support and outreach in their community
Measure: Parent Champion data
- Families have access to information to support starting school
Measure: Numbers attending training and support, starting school toolkit developed

Cross cutting themes



Family voice

We want to make sure everything we do is shaped by the real experiences of families. Family and child feedback helps us understand what it is really like to raise babies and young children in Brighton & Hove, and guides us in providing the services they need.



Relationship based practice

Strong, trusting relationships are at the heart of the support we offer. When professionals and families build good relationships, it helps create positive change. We want every family including fathers and non-birthing partners to feel understood, respected and supported, and we want our staff to feel confident and safe in how they work.



Inclusion and diversity

Every family should feel welcome and supported. We want our Best Start Offer to work for everyone, including families who may face extra challenges such as special educational needs, language barriers, financial pressures or limited internet access. Our aim is to make sure that every parent and carer can get the help they need in a way that feels right for them. This means recognising each family's unique circumstances and making sure our support is fair, inclusive and free from discrimination.



Poverty aware

Poverty aware practice is understanding, recognising, and responding appropriately to those experiencing poverty. We recognise that poverty is a trauma. The impacts of poverty and housing insecurity are wide ranging and can be most profoundly felt by those who are vulnerable, marginalised or discriminated against, in our society. This will be considered throughout all Best Start services and beyond.



Trauma informed

We recognise that past or current difficult experiences can affect how families feel and cope with challenges. Being trauma informed means we work in ways that help families feel safe, supported and understood, and we avoid doing anything that could cause further stress or harm.



Transitions

Changes can be challenging for young children and their families whether it is moving between services or starting school. Through our Best Start in Life Offer, we aim to make these transitions as smooth and supported as possible by working together to co-ordinate service delivery.

Key enablers:

What helps us deliver the Best Start in Life

To make sure every child in Brighton & Hove has the best possible start, we need strong foundations behind the scenes. These “key enablers” help our services work well together so families get clear, consistent and high quality support from pregnancy to starting school.

1. A joined up, citywide Best Start Offer

We are working to make sure families across the city receive the same high quality support, no matter where they live. All Best Start staff will take part in shared training and use the same tools, so that help for families is consistent and easy to understand.

We will provide clear information about the support available from pregnancy through the early years and work together to ensure families know what trusted help they can access and how to find it when they need it.

2. Strong partnerships and shared responsibility

Children and families are supported by many different teams; health, early years, social care, community groups and schools. We are strengthening how these services work together and share responsibility for improving children’s development and wellbeing. Importantly, parents and carers will have a voice in how Best Start services are designed and delivered.

To reach and support families in Brighton & Hove better, we need to continue the strong engagement with private, community and voluntary sector organisations. These groups are rooted in local neighbourhoods and often have trusted relationships with families, making them essential partners in delivering support.

3. Digital information, advice and guidance

Families need access to reliable, up-to-date digital information and advice in one place. We will use the national Best Start in Life and Healthy Babies branding across our services and Family Help Online to ensure information and support is easy to find and recognise, providing clear, consistent and joined-up messages so families can access trusted guidance quickly and with confidence.

4. Using evidence and data to improve outcomes

Everything we do will be shaped by the best available evidence on what helps children get the strongest start in life. We will continue to use research, local data and best practice to guide decisions and improve outcomes. We are developing a Best Start Dashboard so we can quickly see what is working well and where more support is needed. This includes tracking children’s development, how families are engaging with services, and the impact of evidence based interventions.

Delivery and Governance

A detailed programme plan will sit underneath the Best Start in Life strategic plan outlining key actions, accountability, risks and issues.

The Best Start in Life strategic plan and delivery will be overseen by the Best Start governance structures below:



Links to other strategies

National

Best Start in Life

www.gov.uk/government/publications/giving-every-child-the-best-start-in-life

Families First

www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme

Young Futures

www.gov.uk/guidance/young-futures-hubs

Local

Brighton & Hove Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2021 to 2026

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-strategy-21-26

Tackling Educational Disadvantage

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/tackling-educational-disadvantage

Anti-Racism Strategy

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/anti-racism-strategy-23-28

Cost of Living Plan

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cost-living-support/brighton-hove-cost-living-plan

Healthy Lives: Starting Well

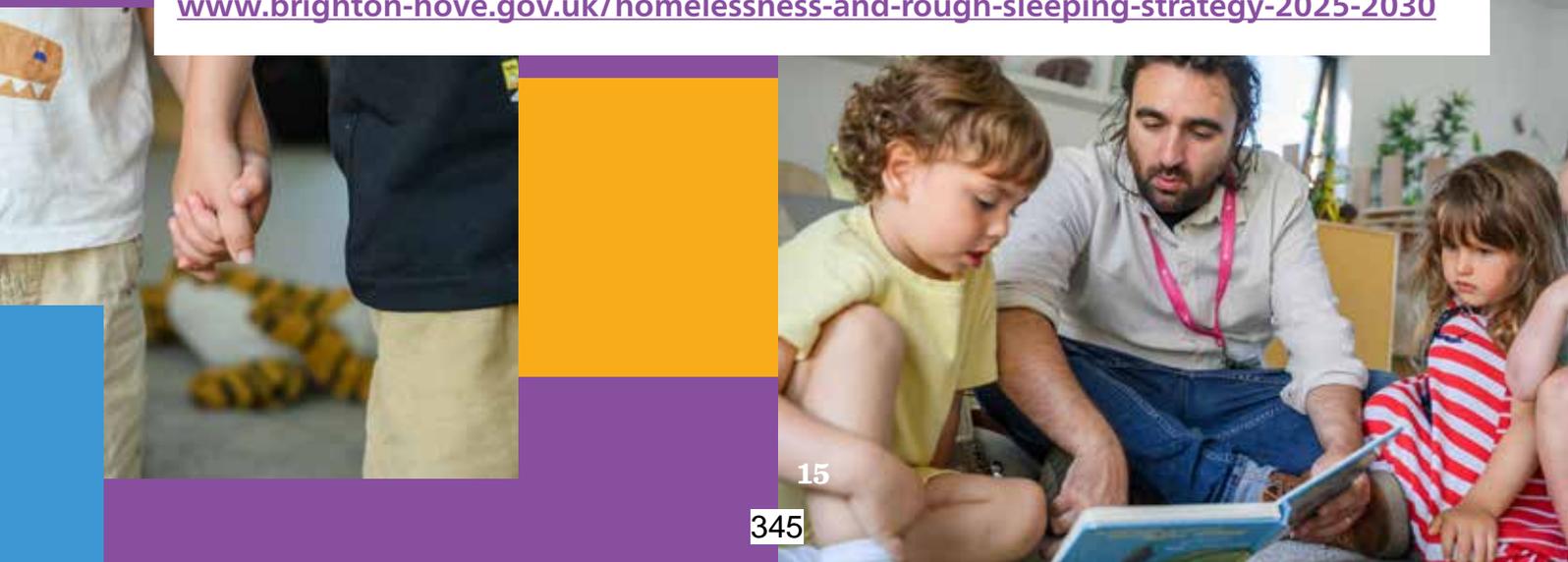
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthy-lives-starting-well

Brighton & Hove physical activity and sport strategy 2024 to 2034

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/lets-get-moving

Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy 2025 to 2030

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy-2025-2030





Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 151

Subject: Planned Maintenance
Budget and Asset Management Fund Allocations and
Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment
Programme 2026-2027

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

Lead Officer: Director Property & Finance

Contact Officer: Elijah Obadimu, Yann Vochelle

Email: Elijah.obadimu@brighton-hove.gov.uk;
yann.vochelle@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000 and is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Cabinet of the level of available capital resources allocated to support education buildings and to recommend a capital programme for 2026/27 in respect of School Condition Allocations (SCA), Basic Needs and High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) funding.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval for the annual budget allocation and programme of maintenance, improvements and Health & Safety works for the Council's operational property portfolio. In this respect, the report details the allocations for two budget areas: The Planned Maintenance Budget ("PMB") and the Asset Management Fund ("AMF").
- 1.3 The Planned Maintenance Budget (PMB) covers essential repair works to civic offices, historic, operational, commercial and environmental buildings and consists of a combined revenue and capital budget of £4,009,540 and a Social Care Planned Works Budget of £500,000, totalling £4,509,540 for 2026/27.
- 1.4 The annual Asset Management Fund (AMF) is a capital budget for property improvements and health & safety works totaling £1,000,000.

- 1.5 The proposed strategy for the education capital investment, planned maintenance budget, and asset management funded programmes supports the Council Plan 2023 – 2027 (refresh 2025), specifically summarized in Table below:

Table 1: Alignment of education capital investment, planned maintenance and asset management funded programmes strategy with Council Plan 2023-2027 (refresh 2025)

Council Plan Outcome		Alignment
Outcome 1: A City to Be Proud Of	Investing in our city	Enhancing the condition and appearance of council buildings, supporting a well-maintained city that residents and visitors can be proud of.
	Accessible, clean and sustainable city	Maintenance works improve accessibility, energy efficiency and overall building performance, helping deliver a cleaner and more sustainable built environment.
Outcome 2: A Fair and Inclusive City	Homes for everyone	Ensuring buildings remain safe and compliant supports dignified, reliable environments for service users, particularly vulnerable residents.
	Inclusive and fairer city	The programmes incorporate accessibility upgrades that remove barriers and promote equitable access to public buildings.
	A city where people feel safe and welcome	Keeping buildings structurally sound and hazard-free enhances public safety and contributes to more welcoming community spaces.
Outcome 3: A Healthy City	Better future for children and young people	Well-maintained school buildings ensure safe, fit-for-purpose learning spaces that support high-quality and inclusive education.
	Prevention and family support	Reliable, well-maintained facilities enable effective delivery of youth, family and early-help services.
	Living and ageing well	Maintenance that improves safety and accessibility supports independent living and healthier environments for older and disabled residents.
Outcome 4: A Responsive and Learning Council	Innovation and technology	Upgraded and compliant buildings provide the infrastructure needed to deploy digital tools, modern systems and technology-enabled services.
	Transforming our ways of working	Safe, functional buildings support staff wellbeing and enable efficient service delivery aligned with the council's learning-organisation approach.
	Good governance and financial resilience	Proactive planned maintenance protects asset value, reduces long-term costs and supports the Strategic Asset Management Plan's aims for sustainable use of the Council property portfolio.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet notes the level of available capital resources totalling £5,569,000m for investment relating to education buildings.
- 2.2 Cabinet agrees the allocation of funding as shown in Appendix 1 for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2026/27.
- 2.3 Cabinet grants delegated authority to the Director of Property & Finance to procure the capital maintenance and basic need works required, as set out in Appendix 1, and enter into contracts in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.
- 2.4 Cabinet approves the annual programme of planned maintenance works within the Planned Maintenance Budget for 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix 2, at a total estimated cost of £4,509,540.
- 2.5 Cabinet approves the allocations from the Asset Management Fund for 2026/27, totalling £1,000,000, as detailed in Appendix 3.
- 2.6 Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Property & Finance to take all steps necessary to procure the Planned Maintenance Budget works and Asset Management Fund improvement works and award contracts within these budgets and in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

3. Context and background information

Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme

- 3.1 The annual capital finance settlement for education buildings from central government includes Basic Need, School Condition Allocations (SCA), High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) for community schools.
- 3.2 Capital finance for Voluntary Aided Schools, academies and free schools does not form part of the funding allocated to local authorities as they have access to the separate Condition Improvement Fund administered by the Department for Education (DfE).
- 3.3 The table below shows the allocations of capital grant funding announced for 2026/27 only and does not include any 2025/26 capital grant forecast to be re-profiled into 2026/27.

Table 1: Education Capital Grant Funding Allocations for 2026/27

Capital Grant Settlement 2026/27	£m
School Condition Allocation (SCA)	3.650*
Basic Need Funding	0.000
High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	1.419*
Devolved Formula Capital Grant (Passported entirely to schools)	0.500*
Total (£)	5.569*

* To be confirmed. Estimated budget based on 2025/26 allocation.

- 3.4 In lieu of a final announcement the expectation is that there will be no appreciable difference to the allocation for the 2026/27 financial year and therefore it is assumed that the SCA will be £3.650m and the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocation will remain at £0.500m. This is a prudent assumption, and a reserve list of works has been compiled in case the actual settlement is higher than anticipated. This is common practice and enables works and contracts to be set in train without unnecessary delay while waiting for final confirmation of the settlement. As in previous years, a formal variation to the capital programme will be approved through Targeted Budget Management reports to Cabinet if the final settlement is above or very unlikely, below the assumed funding level.
- 3.5 In March 2022 the Government updated their medium-term allocation figures for Basic Need capital funding for 2026/27 setting the level at £nil for this authority.
- 3.6 HNPCA funding for the 2026/27 financial year is linked to the recently published White Paper. The DfE announced the capital programme starting 2026–27 but without details of allocations per local authority. It is most likely that allocations for 2026–27 will be published sometime between April and June 2026. Current indications suggest a focus on strengthening provision within mainstream schools, potentially supported by an enhanced capital allocation. However, no funding figure has yet been released, and therefore no assumptions can be made at this stage. In the absence of confirmed information for 2026/27, the 2025/26 allocation has been used for illustrative purposes only, and it should be recognised that even this amount is not guaranteed. £650k is allocated to the construction of new Portakabins for the Downs View Life Skills College.
- 3.7 DFC grants are passed directly to schools and therefore are not available for the Local Authority to spend.
- 3.8 In addition to the funding from central Government, there is a Services to Schools buy back option for the council's strategic property function to provide schools with a full condition survey, statutory compliance contracts and access to advice and support on all property matters. It is anticipated that this will generate £0.500m for the 2026/27 financial year. There is a forecast drop in income next year in anticipation of some schools' academisations or potential closures.
- 3.9 This service buy-back resulted from a change in the rules around the ways in which schools were funded in 2017/18. As a result of this change a buy-back scheme was created for schools. Since the change, all community schools have purchased the service while Voluntary Aided schools buy a partial service (in recognition of their different status with the council when it comes to property) and the free schools and academies do not buy the service due to their direct relationship with the DfE. It is for this reason that the total buy-back amount has been reduced over time.

- 3.10 The table below shows the level of new resources available for the Local Authority to commit in the 2026/27 financial year:

Table 3: Education Capital Resources for 2026/27

Capital Resources 2026/27	£m
Capital Finance settlement	3.650
Services to Schools Income	0.450
High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	tbc
Total	4.100

* To be confirmed. Estimated budget based on 2025/26 allocation.

- 3.11 Additional grant funding may be made available throughout the forthcoming financial year and will be reported separately as appropriate.
- 3.12 Any capital reprofiles and/or slippage arising from the 2025/26 Capital Programme will be incorporated into the 2026/27 programme when the capital accounts are closed at 31 March 2026.
- 3.13 Any capital underspend arising from the 2025/26 Capital Programme will be incorporated into the 2026/27 programme when the capital accounts are closed at 31 March 2026.
- 3.14 In addition to the Capital Resources set out above, there is an existing pot of £4.445m of Section 106 developer contributions for education. A decision is awaiting the amalgamation of Hove Park as a single site and approximately £1.835m of this total could be used on this project. This is not intended for planned maintenance of schools but instead is to mitigate the impact on schools of new developments. There is an emerging programme of spend in place for this funding, and delivery of that expenditure will complement this education capital investment programme.

Strategic Asset Management

- 3.15 The council's new Asset Management Plan (AMP) was approved at October 2025 Cabinet meeting. The Plan sets out the property context for Brighton and Hove, the council's strategic property objectives, and provides a structured process to asset management for all General Fund land and buildings, in line with the four outcomes of the Council Plan 2023-2027 ([Brighton & Hove City Council plan 2023 to 2027 refresh 2025](#)) and learning framework incorporating the five pillars of a learning organisation, to ensure value for money from property in serving the needs of the organisation and supporting a better Brighton and Hove for everyone. The Asset Management Plan is available on the council's website ([Corporate Aset Management Plan Overview 2025](#)).
- 3.16 The council's Asset Strategy Programme supports delivery of key objectives and actions of the Asset Management Plan. This includes the rationalisation of the council's operational portfolio to deliver capital receipts and operational property expenditure savings to support delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

- 3.17 Rolling condition surveys are undertaken to ensure a robust assessment of the council's 5-year requirement for planned maintenance to help prioritise future programmes of work in conjunction with future service delivery plans.

Planned Maintenance Budget

- 3.18 The total available resources of £4.510m approved by Budget Council relate to those operational buildings where the council has a repairing liability but excludes council housing, highways, commercial and agricultural buildings and educational establishments (see earlier) that have their own budgetary provisions.
- 3.19 The Corporate Building Maintenance Strategy (which can be accessed [here](#)) sets out a robust framework to optimise the contribution that property can make to the council's priorities and strategic and service objectives. The aim is to ensure that finite maintenance resources are prioritised and targeted at key operational assets.
- 3.20 In common with most local authorities, the council faces an unsustainable backlog in its required planned maintenance and severe budget challenges, resulting in the limited maintenance resources being inadequate to meet identified need. Budget limitations and restrictions applied over several years have therefore meant substantial restrictions on what can be achieved; that in turn increases prioritised volumes of required maintenance with growing associated risks.
- 3.21 Limited Planned Maintenance Budget resources are also compounded by reactive maintenance budgets also being under significant pressure for effectively maintaining the large and complex Corporate Landlord portfolio to a reasonable standard. For several years, necessary budget and spending restrictions have been put in place whereby only urgent, Health and Safety issues could be addressed.
- 3.22 Ultimately, more money is then spent on dealing with emergency and planned maintenance projects. These become larger in scope and cost rather than addressing issues in a more timely and proactive manner when they are small and first realised.
- 3.23 The annual planned maintenance budget allocation is prioritised in consultation with services to identify and address the highest critical and most essential maintenance works and supports service re-design and delivery. It also aims to ensure that statutory compliance works, and high-risk Health and Safety issues are addressed. Essential maintenance includes works of a structural nature and those that keep buildings watertight. Officers aim to ensure best use of resources available, secure value for money and ensure that funding is prioritised. A substantial part of the planned maintenance budget covers the costs of statutory compliance testing, routine servicing and maintenance contracts as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 3.24 The Asset Strategy Programme will support the longer term financial sustainability of the Planned Maintenance Budget by rationalizing the

operational portfolio. This will ensure that investment in our buildings fits with future service delivery plans. The operational portfolio review applies to all corporate PMB and Social Care PMB buildings as well as others e.g. non-school properties in Families, Children & Well-being. The review will consider condition survey requirements, reactive, term maintenance and energy efficiency implications aligned with an assessment of Council Plan and service delivery priorities

- 3.25 In accordance with the Council's 50-year lease agreement with the trustees of the Brighton Dome Complex on the Royal Pavilion Estate that commenced in 1999, a figure estimated at £0.309m has been top-sliced from the 2026/27 PMB budget to contribute towards maintenance works at the Dome. There is an obligation within the lease agreement that the council provides this contribution each year (that increases by Retail Prices Index) to go towards helping to maintain the fabric of the building, items of plant, statutory compliance testing, routine servicing, etc.
- 3.26 The Royal Pavilion & Museums buildings were transferred to the Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust on a 25-year contract on 1st October 2020. The lease arrangements mean that the Trust is fully responsible for all forms of external and internal maintenance, health and safety and statutory compliance for the leased buildings. To financially contribute towards the upkeep of these council-owned buildings, the council retains an annual sum within this budget for a planned programme to be prioritised and agreed between the Trust and the council. For 2026/27, the estimated sum allocated is £0.564m for PMB from capital reserves and delegated budgets to support the total maintenance commitment to the Trust.

Summary of the Proposed Annual 2026/27 Planned Maintenance Budget Programme of Works

- 3.27 The financial allocation to each main service area is listed within Appendix 2. For Corporate Landlord ("CL") premises the PMB is primarily used for works relevant to but not exclusive to, for example, structural roof, windows and floor repairs, annual Health & Safety compliance e.g. safe legionella management and water monitoring, Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) testing, fire safety and intruder alarms checks, passenger and goods lifts checks, boiler and plant refurbishments and replacements, automatic doors safety checks etc.
- 3.28 As Hove Town Hall (HTH) becomes the main corporate operational building following the relocation of services from Bartholomew House, further works are required to enhance the building to accommodate the increased operational use. In addition to the ongoing G101 test and learn project to provide suitable workspace for staff and the enhancement of the north-wing lift for fire evacuation purposes, several internal improvement and repair works have been identified to be carried out at HTH. Due to limited budget, only the essential atrium repairs have been allowed within 2026/27 PMB. Other essential work that could be carried out if additional funding is available will include the toilet, kitchen and resource area upgrades, and internal redecoration works.

- 3.29 In addition to the current damp remedial works at Brighton Town Hall, an external consultant has been engaged to carry out comprehensive site surveys including fire safety, compartmentation, building condition, basement tanking, drone inspection, drainage (CCTV), and health and safety. These surveys focus solely on identifying the works needed to bring the building to a safe, statutory-compliant and habitable standard, without assessing changes to layout or future use. The findings are now being costed to produce a 5-year Planned Preventative Maintenance schedule, with critical works to be prioritised in the first three years and lower-risk items scheduled for years four and five. The full report is anticipated in March 2026.
- 3.30 In the case of contract and lease arrangement with Freedom Leisure with regards to various sports and leisure sites, the council would only be responsible for the replacement of main plant i.e. boiler or air-handling plant and main structural repairs of the premises i.e. roofs and floors etc. The provision of cyclical maintenance and reactive repairs remains the responsibility of Freedom Leisure. However, where there is an upgrade or improvement that we as an authority want to deliver then we would look to fund/implement if possible, depending on the specific requirement. Within 2026/27 PMB, roof and heating system replacement at The Manor leisure facility, and upgrades of flexi pool moveable floor and air circulation duct work have been allowed.
- 3.31 There are sums in the 2026/27 PMB to fund the ongoing structural propping and engineer checks to Madeira Terraces whilst the major project of refurbishment develops. Replacement of waterplay equipment and plant at Peter Pan playground, retaining wall development along the seafront promenade, and various statutory maintenance and safety works at the Volks railway facility are also included in the 2026/27 PMB works.
- 3.32 Flexibility is available during the year to reprioritise the programme to meet any changing service priorities, spending restrictions and respond safely to any emergency requirements within specific buildings or facilities. Each service area also has a sum allocated for Health and Safety risk management works that is to address any unforeseen required remedial works throughout the course of the year.
- 3.33 Examples of areas of work to the adult and children's Social Care portfolio include a variety that address risk reduction to support some of the most vulnerable, such as fire precaution, external walls & cladding, paths & hardstanding, internal and external refurbishments and redecorations, mechanical and electrical improvement works. Please see Appendix 3 for the Social Care Planned Maintenance Budget allocations.

Asset Management Fund

- 3.34 The Asset Management Fund 2026/27 is an annual capital fund of £1.000m to support essential property improvements, minimise backlog maintenance, improve sustainability and energy efficiency of buildings where possible, and reduce longer term maintenance costs. It forms part of the annual corporate

Capital Strategy along with Corporate PMB, Commercial Asset Investment Fund (£0.500m), Information Technology & Digital Future Fund (£1.000m from 2027/28), Strategic Investment Fund (£0.250m) and the Local Transport Plan.

- 3.35 The proposed overall Asset Management Fund allocation is as follows and details of the proposed allocations can be found in Appendix 4 which includes continued support for the computer aided facilities management system to aid the compliance of our operational buildings and improve workflow efficiency, the reprioritised Workspaces Innovation programme, health & safety and access improvements to major operational buildings, property condition surveys, and other property related health & safety and Equality Act requirements.

Table 4: Asset Management Fund - Programme Allocations for 2026/27

	Description	Funding (£m)
1	<i>General Property Improvements</i>	
1a	Computer Aided Facilities Management (CAFM) System	0.070
1b	Corporate core buildings – security, customer centres Energy Performance Certificates	0.030
1c	Workspace Innovation Programme - Corporate programme project support, service delivery changes, Operational Accommodation strategy	0.130
1d	Rolling programme of Property Condition surveys	0.170
	Sub-total – general property improvements (£)	0.400
2	<i>Equality Act Improvements</i>	
2a	Rolling programme of access improvements to corporate buildings including Brighton Centre and Hove Town Hall lifts, accessible WC provision / changing places, and access to PV installations at various locations	0.385
3	<i>Property related Health and Safety Legislation</i>	
3a	Asbestos Management	0.050
3b	Legionella Management	0.030
3c	Fire Risk Assessment works	0.135
	Sub-total – property related H&S legislation (£)	0.215
	Total (£)	1.000

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 For Education Capital resources, the allocations are driven by need assessed by DfE. Resources are limited and are therefore prioritised according to need, including health & safety requirements, and in consultation with schools.
- 4.2 For the Planned Maintenance Budgets, failure to provide maintenance of the council's building stock and conform to Health and Safety and other statutory legislation, and to meet liabilities would increase existing risks, inhibit service delivery, lead to a negative perception of the council or cause reputational damage, expose the council to potential fines and penalties, reduce the value

of the assets and prevent fulfilling the council's priorities, aims and objectives as stated in the Asset Management Plan and Council Plan. The Strategic Property teams work closely together to ensure that these programmes of work align with services priorities, and the limited funding is prioritised to meet service objectives and/or meet accessibility or health and safety requirements.

- 4.3 For the Asset Management Fund, failure to improve the council's core office accommodation, address property related conditions and access obligations under the Equality Act 2010, and property related Health & Safety legislation would increase council risks and liabilities, inhibit service delivery, lead to a negative perception of the council or cause reputational damage, expose the council to potential fines and penalties, reduce the value of the assets and prevent fulfilling the council's priorities, aims and objectives as stated in the Asset Management Plan and Council Plan.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 For Education Capital investments, as individual projects are developed, the necessary consultation is undertaken and reported to the Cabinet Member or Cabinet depending on value and in accordance with Contract Standing Orders. As part of the Community Engagement Framework, consultation with school Heads is undertaken to establish where urgent works may be required.
- 5.2 The Council uses a dual-track methodology to assess condition and investment need across the school estate, combining technical building data with on-the-ground intelligence from schools. A rolling programme of full condition surveys ensures every school is assessed within a five-year cycle. Each site is inspected by both a building surveyor and an M&E specialist, with findings recorded in the Council's condition database, which tracks the condition and priority of every room and building element. These surveys use standardised square-metre cost rates to estimate the financial requirements for future works, providing a consistent and data-driven basis for investment planning.
- 5.3 Alongside this, the annual bids-visit programme captures each school's own priorities, with submissions recorded over multiple years to monitor patterns of emerging need. The Building Surveying and Education Capital teams then jointly review survey data, school feedback, and the history of recent and planned works to produce a prioritised programme that is fair, deliverable and aligned with statutory responsibilities. This approach also ensures operational efficiency by limiting major concurrent projects at the same school, and by distributing investment so that all schools receive periodic improvements. The final programme is developed within anticipated DfE capital allocations, which are confirmed annually in April.
- 5.4 For PMB, the annual consultations have taken place with all services and with technical officers across property functions to identify planned works for 2026/27. Service area leads and/or key technical officers submitted their bids for works funded from PMB, highlighting the condition of the property elements and the priority ratings for the associated works required. The bids

were evaluated using the Works Priority Assessment method in line with our Corporate Building Maintenance Strategy. (The Strategy can be accessed [here](#)).

- 5.5 The Works Priority Assessment Method provides a structured, evidence-based approach for allocating the Council's PMB. Each property within the Council's estate is assigned a strategic rating (S1–S5) that reflects its relative importance to corporate and service priorities, ranging from critical core service assets to non-operational buildings awaiting disposal. Alongside this, condition surveys assess the physical state of each building element using standard condition grades (A–D), covering the spectrum from good condition to life-expired components. These two dimensions are combined through a RAG-rated matrix, ensuring that the most significant assets with the poorest conditions are clearly identified and prioritised for intervention.
- 5.6 Individual works identified through inspections are then assigned a priority level (1–3) based on urgency, statutory compliance and health and safety risk, ranging from urgent works required to prevent immediate closure or major risk, through to desirable works needed within three to five years. These inputs feed into a final decision matrix that generates a transparent, auditable ranking of maintenance needs. This methodology ensures that limited resources are targeted effectively—prioritising high-risk, safety-critical and statutory-driven works—while supporting the Council's property performance indicators and overall stewardship of the estate.
- 5.7 The Workspace Innovation Programme will continue to enable consolidation of the Council's operational portfolio as part of the overarching Asset Strategy Programme. This will include the provision of programme and project management support to drive property improvements and service delivery changes. It includes the decant and preparation of Bartholomew House for potential sale or lease, and the enhancement of utilisation at Hove Town Hall.
- 5.8 The procurement of planned maintenance frameworks and the cyclical, term and reactive contracts are either covered by the Procurement Forward Plan or, where a new requirement, will be reported to and considered by either the relevant Cabinet Member or Cabinet depending on value.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The report sets out the allocation of Education Capital resources included in the Capital Investment Programme 2026/27. The capital resources will meet ongoing capital maintenance requirements as well as addressing refurbishments, additional provision and other matters including SEND requirements.
- 6.2 The report details the resources available for investment into the Education Capital Investment Programme for 2026/27. The report includes assumed Government grant contributions for Education Capital Maintenance of £3.650m and Devolved Capital Formula of £0.500m which are subject to confirmation from the DfE in due course. Any change to this assumption from the final settlement will be reported in future TBM reports. The capital

resources include income estimated at £0.500 for 2026/27 that relates to Services to Schools buy-back associated with the strategic property function. This income will further assist with maintenance spend identified in this report.

- 6.3 The council's Planned Maintenance Budget for 2026/27 provides a total of £4.510m for annual planned maintenance expenditure on the council's civic offices, historic, operational (excluding schools, housing and highways) social care buildings, environmental buildings and commercial buildings. Included within this annual budget and overall programme of works are items that will be capitalised and included in the 2026/27 Capital Investment programme. As noted, a permanent annual contribution toward the Dome Complex maintenance estimated at £0.306m has been top sliced from the Corporate Planned Maintenance Budget. The Royal Pavilion & Museums buildings will receive a contribution of £0.564m. The proposed budget allocation to the respective building portfolios reflects the risk prioritisation outlined in the report and is shown in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 6.4 The Planned Maintenance Budget will be met from a combination of recurrent revenue resources and capital borrowing. The borrowing costs have been factored into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.5 The council's capital programme also provides £0.500m, for essential repair works to Social Care premises. This is funded from borrowing with the financing costs met corporately within the General Fund capital financing budget.
- 6.6 The programme of works set out in the appendices can be funded from within the agreed budget allocations for 2026/27. Emerging compliance risks will be addressed by reprioritising the allocation as required. Risk and priorities will be reassessed and considered in the development of the allocation for 2026/27.
- 6.7 The General Fund Revenue Budget, Capital & Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 to Budget Council approved the allocation of £1.000m capital resources to support the Asset Management Fund 2026/27. The Asset Management Fund allocation will be met from capital receipts. The Asset Management Fund allocations will be incorporated into the council's Capital Investment Programme 2026/27 to support the schemes identified within Table 3 at paragraph 3.33 and Appendix 4.
- 6.8 Any running costs associated with the investments in this report will be met from existing budgets.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted:
11/02/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The works contemplated by this report must comply with relevant lease conditions, health and safety and other applicable legislation. All forms of

procurement outlined in this report must comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders [CSOs] and public procurement legislation.

- 7.2 The access improvement works proposed will assist the Council in meeting its obligations under The Equality Act 2010.

Name of lawyer consulted: Eleanor Richards Date consulted 12/02/26

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The key risks that need to be mitigated and regularly monitored are tabulated below:

Table 5: Identified key risks and mitigation measures

	Identified Risk	Mitigation Measure(s)	Monitoring Regime
1	Insufficient BHCC technical officer capacity to undertake and manage schemes (vacancies and limited in-house bandwidth).	<p><i>Resource plan & recruitment:</i> Proceed with external recruitment to fill priority posts; consider term-contract frameworks and consultant call-offs for design/PM and/or CA support. This is costly and not sustainable compared to recruitment of new staff</p> <p><i>Prioritisation & phasing:</i> Sequence projects to match available capacity and school timetable; defer less critical tasks; bundle similar works for efficiency.</p> <p><i>Process enablement:</i> Standardise briefs, templates, and stage-gate approvals to reduce rework and oversight burden; procure ipads & new project & programme module in Concerto</p> <p><i>Skills uplift:</i> Regular training and wellbeing checks for existing staff.</p>	<p><i>Owner:</i> Building Surveying Manager.</p> <p><i>KPIs:</i> Vacancy fill rate and fee generated compared to previous years; % projects with named Building Surveyor; BS caseload per FTE; schedule adherence (SPI).</p> <p><i>Cadence:</i> Fortnightly project delivery / resource check; monthly TBM reporting and recruitment / vacancy control tracker check for external recruitment approvals; quarterly capacity re-forecast.</p>
2	Scope growth beyond original briefs leading to	<p><i>Front-end definition:</i> Early structured engagement with</p>	<p><i>Owner:</i> Surveyor</p>

	<p>cost pressure and delays.</p>	<p>headteachers/property managers and planners/building control; confirm functional requirements and constraints.</p> <p><i>Evidence base:</i> Refresh condition data where more than 5 years old; targeted intrusive surveys where risk warrants; implement condition survey module in Concerto</p> <p><i>Controls:</i> Freeze scope at end of key project stage with change-control; include quantified risk allowance/optimism bias in cost plans; independent cost checks.</p> <p><i>Communication:</i> Issue clear client brief / employer's requirements and site logistics/decant assumptions.</p>	<p><i>KPIs:</i> % change orders vs. contract sum; variance to approved brief; risk draw-down vs. allowance.</p> <p><i>Cadence:</i> Weekly design coordination; monthly change-control review; gateway sign-offs at key project stages.</p>
3	<p>Decision-making delays causing asset deterioration and potential H&S exposure, impacting safe operation of schools and facilities.</p>	<p><i>Governance timetable:</i> Pre-agree Cabinet/Member decision dates (March 2026 before NFY), with delegated thresholds for urgent H&S works.</p> <p><i>Ready-to-procure packs:</i> Maintain survey-backed, pre-tendered "shovel-ready" packages for time-critical items.</p> <p><i>Budget timing:</i> Align approvals with DfE allocations and term breaks; ring-fence contingency for emergent risks.</p>	<p><i>Owner:</i> Building Surveying Manager / Capital Programme Lead).</p> <p><i>KPIs:</i> Average approval lead time; % urgent works vs. planned; number of H&S actions overdue; asset condition trend.</p> <p><i>Cadence:</i> Monthly programme board; exception reporting for critical assets; termly health & safety review.</p>

		<i>Preventive maintenance:</i> Use thorough, up-to-date condition surveys and planned works programming to minimise urgencies.	
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9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 Where applicable, items of maintenance work within the programme will consider the Equality Act 2010 to improve access and general facilities to address the diverse needs of staff and users of the educational, civic offices, operational and commercial buildings.
- 9.2 The provision of on-going access works under the rolling programme will assist the council in meeting requirements under the Equalities Act 2010.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 The detailed planning of projects at educational establishments will take account of the implications of Brighton and Hove's policies in relation to sustainability issues generally.
- 10.2 The council will consider how best to undertake the planned programme in a responsible, sustainable way. Projects within the planned programme are to be procured using the planned maintenance framework set up by Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex County Council on 1st September 2024 following an Invitation to Mini-Competition and Tender exercise carried out that same year to select different contractors for various works value lots. The Framework is in place for four years from set-up. The successful contractors are required to demonstrate that they will minimise waste, meet targets for reductions in waste to landfill and optimise the recovery, reuse and recycling of waste. In addition to this they are required to describe the steps they will take to minimise the use of resources (water, fuel, energy from fossil fuels) and improve sustainable sourcing. The framework contracts include Performance Indicators in respect of sustainability and Environmental Management, and these will be monitored on a quarterly basis.
- 10.3 Energy efficiency audits have been carried out across selected buildings within the operational estate that are the largest contributors to the council's carbon emissions. These audits identified opportunities for energy efficiency measures that will be prioritised into a programme of works and an investment strategy working towards a carbon zero position in 2030. Energy efficiency measures are incorporated into maintenance and improvement works whenever appropriate to help the council meet its CN2030 target.
- 10.4 The sustainability of projects is considered at the outset to ensure the best outcomes for the building and its users. Suitability assessment as part of regular property performance review was carried out on the buildings where planned building works will be carried out. The building works undertaken will also improve the thermal performance of buildings overall. This can include

items such as repointing, replacing curtain walling with aluminium systems which have better lifecycle costs, recyclability and energy efficiency. When replacing or refurbishing roofs the council looks to exceed Approved Document L requirements in terms of energy efficiency. The insulation installed when undertaking roofing works is rated A+ (the highest) in the BRE Green Specification Guide.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 Carrying out essential planned maintenance and statutory compliant work does not only keep the buildings in good condition but also supports the health, safety, comfort and overall well-being of building occupants, users and visitors. Examples include upgraded ventilation plant improve indoor air quality which in turn lowers risk of respiratory issues and stress / anxieties; safe and functional building systems (e.g. electricals, fire alarms, boilers, lifts etc.) provides thermal comfort, prevent accidents,, and encourages social interaction and community engagement allow for safe access and movement to and within the buildings; legionella and water monitoring management supports hygiene and infection control leading to fewer illnesses and supporting public health standards; etc.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 The council's Contract Standing Orders set out the council's process for the procurement of building works. Larger value projects are delivered through the most appropriate procurement route as determined by the project team in collaboration with the appointed procurement lead. Planned maintenance projects are procured predominantly through framework referred to in Section 10 above. There are seven planned maintenance framework lots for varying values of building works, mechanical, electrical, roofing and asbestos removal. Where appropriate for works below £15,000, the council's reactive repairs and minor works framework is utilised.
- 12.2 The seven planned maintenance framework lots create added social value to the city with an increased benefit to the local economy and environment. There is an increased focus on sustainability by officers and contractors in line with the council's sustainable procurement policies.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

- 13.1. There are no direct implications in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder within this report although certain items of work will try to minimise vandalism through design and the use of relevant materials.
- 13.2. Generally, carrying out essential planned maintenance and statutory compliant work to educational and other council-owned assets will deter vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and opportunistic crime which are attracted to poorly maintained buildings. Natural surveillance, access control

measures, improved public confidence, and effective use of space are achieved through these planned maintenance works.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1. The decisions and approvals sought in this report are critical to maintaining the safe, compliant and efficient operation of the Council's educational and operational estate. The recommended capital and revenue allocations will ensure that essential statutory duties are met, core building infrastructure is preserved, and services across schools, social care settings, civic offices and other operational buildings can continue without disruption.
- 14.2. The 2026/27 capital programme prioritises the most urgent health and safety, statutory compliance and condition-related requirements, using robust condition data and service-led evidence to direct investment where the risks and operational impacts are greatest. This targeted approach reduces potential legal and insurance liabilities, supports the effective functioning of buildings, and ensures resources are used where they deliver the highest value.
- 14.3. In addition, the programme strengthens the Council's ability to provide high-quality education and wider frontline services by ensuring that learning environments remain safe, accessible and suitable for both current and future needs. Key investments, including Equality Act measures and High Needs Provision improvements, will enhance inclusion and support statutory responsibilities. By reducing the maintenance backlog, lowering long-term costs and contributing to the Council's carbon reduction objectives, the proposals align fully with the Corporate Asset Management Plan and Council Plan. Approving the recommended allocations and delegations represents prudent and responsible stewardship of the Council's estate.
- 14.1 The proposed financial allocations to a prioritised annual programme of education capital works are set out in Appendix 1
- 14.2 The proposed financial allocations to a prioritised annual programme of planned maintenance budget works (PMB) are set out in Appendix 2. Note, this excludes areas such as council housing, highways and those structures falling on highway land, car parks, public conveniences, city parks roadways and paths, city clean messrooms, and hostels, etc. which have their own budgetary provisions.
- 14.3 This report also sets out the proposed Asset Management Fund financial allocation as detailed at paragraph 3.35 and Appendix 4 for property improvements, access requirements under the Equality Act 2010 and property related Health & Safety requirements for 2026/27.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Proposed Education Capital Planned Maintenance Schemes 2026/27

2. Proposed Corporate Planned Maintenance Budget Allocations 2026/27
3. Proposed Social Care Planned Maintenance Budget Allocations 2026/27
4. Proposed Asset Management Fund Allocations 2026/27

2026-27 EDUCATION CAPITAL MAINTENANCE

School	Bid	Priority	Budget Price	Category
Mile Oak	Replace asbestos ceilings in kitchen – Rooms 0/044A; 0/046;0/047; 0/045	D2	£30,000.00	Asbestos
ASBESTOS TOTAL			£30,000.00	
ELECTRICAL TOTAL			£0.00	
Bevendean Primary	Structural glazing replacement to canteen, ball pit room and 4nr classrooms	D2	£45,000.00	General
Blatchington Mill	Replace staircase glazing (1/198)	D2	£95,000.00	General
Blatchington Mill	Demolish block 09 pavilion	D2	£15,000.00	General
Brackenburg Primary	Replace conservatories completely	D2	£200,000.00	General
Connaught Road	Redecoration to front elevation	D2	£60,000.00	General
Downs Infant	Wall ties & window ties	D2	£20,000.00	General
Downs Junior	Stonework, roof, chimney and plaster repairs whole site	D2	£120,000.00	General
Downs View School	External panel system replacements G027, G035, G038, G040, G036, G037B, LG010	D2	£95,000.00	General
Fairlight Primary	Boundary wall repairs as per HOP report	D2	£85,000.00	General
Longhill High	Replace curtain walling to east elevation	D2	£355,000.00	General
Longhill High	Temporary and permanent edge protection for leisure centre roof to facilitate maintenance & repair.	D2	£80,000.00	General
Peter Gladwin	Structural glazing and doors to kitchen	D2	£21,000.00	General
Rudyard Kipling	Upgrade external cladding above Hall and upgrade insulation	D2	£15,000.00	General
Saltdean	Replace curtain walling to North Elevation Classroom 0/007. Brickwork repointing in isolated locations	D2	£50,000.00	General
St Lukes	Re-pointing and masonry repairs NW elevation	D2	£40,000.00	General
St Lukes	Masonry repairs NW elevation	D2	£70,000.00	General
Tarnerland Nursery	Paths and drainage improvements to eastern boundary	D2	£25,000.00	General
GENERAL TOTAL			£1,391,000.00	
Longhill High	Hot an Cold water distribution Block A	D2	£633,000.00	Mechanical
MECHANICAL TOTAL			£633,000.00	
Blatchington Mill	Linear drain to north elevation SEN rooms, step repairs to north playground, resurfacing to access routes from Holesmes Avenue and Frant Road	D2	£15,000.00	Resurfacing
Coldean Primary	Take up uneven slabs and replace with tarmac outside classrooms areas KS1	D2	£10,000.00	Resurfacing
Hove Park Upper	Hot rolled asphalt resurfacing to east road/car park	D2	£25,000.00	Resurfacing
RESURFACING TOTAL			£50,000.00	
Blatchington Mill	Replacement pitched & flat roof covering (Block 1, front elevation east)	D2	£200,000.00	Roofing
Hill Park Lower	Replacement mono pitch roof	D2	£78,000.00	Roofing
Hove Park Upper	Renew flat roof coverings over 0/014, 0/020, 0/022 and promenade tiles to fire egress route over flat roof	D2	£68,000.00	Roofing
Peter Gladwin	Roof 1 replacement	D2	£74,000.00	Roofing
Peter Gladwin	Roof 2 replacement	D2	£204,000.00	Roofing
Queens Park	Recover roof on extension building	D2	£127,000.00	Roofing
Queens Park	Recover of walkway	D2	£50,000.00	Roofing
Queens Park	Recover roof on Ladybirds classroom	D3	£33,000.00	Roofing
ROOFING TOTAL			£834,000.00	
Bevendean Primary	SEN Toilets	D2	£40,000.00	Toilets
Hill Park Lower	Block 3 toilet refurbishment & alterations	D2	£62,000.00	Toilets
Hill Park Upper	FF boys toilet refurbishment	D2	£75,000.00	Toilets
Hove Junior (Portland Rd)	External boy's toilet refurbishment (0/020Band 0/014)	D2	£110,000.00	Toilets
Mile Oak	Refurbish Year 6 (1/020 & 1/021) toilets	D2	£80,000.00	Toilets
TOILETS TOTAL			£367,000.00	
OVERALL TOTAL			£3,305,000.00	

PLANNED MAINTENANCE BUDGET - CONDITION SURVEY DATA TO SUPPORT FUNDING BIDS 2026 / 2027

Your Name:

Condition Rating

Each building element listed below must have an overall condition rating A to D:

A = Good condition

B = Satisfactory Condition

C = Poor Condition

D = Life Expired

Your Directorate:

Please complete the information below and e-mail to "amp@brighton-hove.gov.uk" as soon as possible and no later than 31st December 2025.

Priority Rating

Each item of work identified below must be given a priority rating 1 to 3:

1 = Urgent Work (required now to prevent closure or a H&S breach)
2 = Essential Work (required within two years)
3 = Desirable Work (required within three to five years)

Property Name	Element <i>select from dropdown</i>	Feature <i>select from dropdown</i>	Attribute <i>select from dropdown</i>	Brief Description of Defect <i>maximum 240 characters</i>	Action Required <i>select from dropdown</i>	Condition <i>select from dropdown</i>	Priority	Estimated Cost £	Date of Condition Survey
Brighton Dome Complex - Maintenance contribution									
Brighton Dome	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Annual PMB contribution towards the Dome maintenance	Refurbish/Upgrade	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£308,958.00	N/A
								£308,958.00	SUB-TOTAL
Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust - Maintenance contribution									
Royal Pavilion and other Museums	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Annual PMB contribution towards the RP&M estates maintenance	Refurbish/Upgrade	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£564,000.00	N/A
								£564,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Term Contracts									
TSS Facilities	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Gas Boiler	Annual Mechanical Cyclical Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£250,416.22	N/A
TSS Facilities	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Gas Boiler	Annual Mechanical Cyclical Maintenance - SHW	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£4,303.16	N/A
EMC	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Controls	Annual mechanical Control Panel Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£6,771.54	N/A
GM Monk Ltd	Electrical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Distribution Board	Annual Electrical Installation Condition Reports	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£246,144.31	N/A
GM Monk Ltd	Electrical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Distribution Board	Annual Electrical Installation Condition Reports - SHW	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£9,991.80	N/A
HSL	Mechanical Services	Domestic Services	Other	Water Monitoring and Legionella Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£210,382.74	N/A
HSL	Mechanical Services	Domestic Services	Other	Water Monitoring and Legionella Maintenance - SHW	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£5,706.95	N/A
Pickering Lifts	Mechanical Services	Lifts & Hoists	Passenger Lift	Annual cyclical passenger & Goods Lifts Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£30,348.55	N/A
Pickering Lifts	Mechanical Services	Lifts & Hoists	Passenger Lift	Annual cyclical passenger & Goods Lifts Maintenance - SHW	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£5,694.89	N/A
Southern Mobility Centres	Mechanical Services	Lifts & Hoists	Disability Equipment	Annual Disability Lift & Hoist Equipment	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£7,761.51	N/A
Medicare	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Annual Nurse Call maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£6,187.44	N/A
Catercraft Supplies	Kitchens	Catering Equipment	Commercial Cooker	Annual Catering Equipment Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£4,264.20	N/A
PAT Central	Electrical Services	Portable Appliances	Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)	Annual Portable Appliance Testing	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£10,350.00	N/A
Aspen Ltd	Mechanical Services	Air Conditioning	VRF External Unit	Annual VRF Maintenance - Hove Town Hall	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£11,810.80	N/A
Aspen Ltd	Mechanical Services	Air Conditioning	VRF External Unit	Annual VRF Maintenance - Portslade Hub	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£4,129.65	N/A
Power Access Systems	External Areas	Access Routes	Other	Annual Mansafe systems Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£912.87	N/A
Thomas Doors and Windows	Mechanical Services	Automatic Doors & Shutters	Gate/Barrier	Annual Automatic Doors Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£10,849.91	N/A
CLM	Mechanical Services	Domestic Services	Other	Annual Laundry Equipment Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£7,059.53	N/A
Basement Pumps	Mechanical Services	Sewage & Storm Water	Pump	Annual Sewage Ejector Maintenance - Daltons Bastion	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£3,097.24	N/A
AEG & EMC	Mechanical Services	Sewage & Storm Water	Controls	Annual Maintenance to Compressors	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£2,581.03	N/A
Fireline Ltd	Mechanical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Other	Annual Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£9,778.10	N/A
Spy Alarms	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Intruder Alarm System	Annual Intruder, Saito, Fire & CCTV Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£75,555.00	N/A
Startek	Electrical Services	Lighting	Other	Maintenance for the Mazda and Victoria Fountains	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£12,497.63	N/A
Gillet & Johnson	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Clock Maintenance	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£3,586.28	N/A
Tilleys Stonemasons	External Areas	Walls, Fences & Gates	Other	Cleaning of war memorials	Service/Test	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£3,105.00	N/A
								£943,286.32	SUB-TOTAL
VENUES - Brighton Centre									
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Power Wiring	Annual EICR testing	Inspect/Investigate	B - Satisfactory	1: Urgent	£45,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Power Wiring	Power correction testing	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£3,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	External Walls, Windows & Doors	Windows & External Doors	Windows/Doors	Test and inspection on all revolving doors	Inspect/Investigate	B - Satisfactory	1: Urgent	£6,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	External Walls, Windows & Doors	Windows & External Doors	Shutter	Test and inspection on fire rated shutters	Inspect/Investigate	B - Satisfactory	1: Urgent	£2,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Fixed Furniture & Fittings	Fixed Furniture & Fittings Non Teaching	Other	Test and inspection on our mobile tribune seating by Hussey the	Inspect/Investigate	A - Good	1: Urgent	£7,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Fixed Furniture & Fittings	Fixed Furniture & Fittings Non Teaching	Other	Test and inspection on the Main Hall stage units	Inspect/Investigate	A - Good	1: Urgent	£6,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Other	Evacuation tannoy system test and inspection	Inspect/Investigate	A - Good	1: Urgent	£3,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Kitchens	Catering Equipment	Commercial Cooker	Fire safety check on all kitchen equipment	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£6,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Other	Maintenance on HV electrical equipment	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£3,500.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Other	Maintenance of MV electrical equipment	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£2,500.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Internal Walls, Windows & Doors	Internal Doors & Screens	Fire Compartmentation	Maintenance on all roller shutter doors LOLA	Inspect/Investigate	B - Satisfactory	1: Urgent	£4,000.00	constant survey for Licence

Brighton Centre	Internal Walls, Windows & Doors	Internal Doors & Screens	Fire Compartmentation	maintain the link room door controls and motors	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£3,500.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Internal Walls, Windows & Doors	Internal Walls & Partitions	Demountable Partition	Maintain air walls test and inspection	Inspect/Investigate	A - Good	1: Urgent	£2,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	External Walls, Windows & Doors	Windows & External Doors	Fire Compartmentation	annual inspection on all external fire exit doors	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£30,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Fire Alarm System	test and inspection on secondary lighting batteries and system	Inspect/Investigate	B - Satisfactory	1: Urgent	£10,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Mechanical Services	Lifts & Hoists	Other	Test and inspection of all hanging points and tower moving bridge LOLA	Inspect/Investigate	B - Satisfactory	1: Urgent	£8,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	CO2 Suppression System	Test and inspection on the CO2 suppression system	Inspect/Investigate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£4,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	CCTV System	test and inspection on the CCTV system	Repair	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£5,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Intruder Alarm System	test and maintain the intruder alarm system	Repair	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£2,500.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Replacement of original cast internal drainwater pipes	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£20,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Floors & Staircases	Floor Finish	Carpet Tile	to replace unsafe floor coverings	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£15,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Ceilings	Ceiling Finish	Finishes	to replace unsafe ceiling tiles and grids	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£15,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Fixed Furniture & Fittings	Fixed Furniture & Fittings Non Teaching	Other	To replace broken seating in the balconies	Repair	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£10,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Gas Boiler	To replace a single pump for a dual pump on boiler 2, as this is a single point of failure and could close the venue	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£45,000.00	constant survey for Licence
Brighton Centre	Roofs	Flat roof	Roof covering	Roof repairs to SW corner of building comprising of 3 different sections as per Aam Talbot's site visit on 11/02/2026. Refer to report and estimates for details.	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£270,000.00	10/02/2026
Brighton Centre				Replace the expired boiler number 1 with 2 x smaller remaha boilers	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£200,000.00	
								£575,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Health & Safety, Facilities, Building Services									
Hove Town Hall	Roofs	Pitched Roof	Roof Structure	Atrium Glass roof is leaking - last fix was in 2007 - leak permeates into G39 area - Simon Finch to confirm costs + surveyors fees + £75K	Reglaze	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£75,000.00	
9-11 Rutland Gardens	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Gas Boiler	New Gas boiler and upgraded supply	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£50,000.00	
9-11 Rutland Gardens	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Calorifier	New calorifier upsized to meet demand on site	Renew/Replace	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£30,000.00	
9-11 Rutland Gardens	Internal Walls, Windows & Doors	Internal Walls & Partitions	Other	Addressing damp damaged internal walls	Repair	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£15,000.00	
9-11 Rutland Gardens	External Walls, Windows & Doors	Windows & External Doors	Other	Repairing cracked render, replace and refurb sash windows and redecoration inc. scaffolding	Repair	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£100,000.00	
9-11 Rutland Gardens	Redecorations	Internal Redecoration	Redecoration	Redecoration of internal walls post works	Redecorate	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£10,000.00	
								£280,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Net Zero									
Hollingdean Depot - Workshop Building	Electrical Services	Power Generation	Solar Photo Voltaic (PV)	PV system not operational, lacks safe access, creating H&S risks. Inverter has been vandalised. High site electrical demand makes PV generation essential. Relocate PV for safe access, install fall arrest, repair faulty sky lights.	Refurbish/Upgrade	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£109,788.65	N/A
								£109,788.65	SUB-TOTAL
Seafront									
Seafront Promenade	External Walls, Windows & Doors	External Walls	Walls	Build retaining wall to prevent shingle overtopping causing a slip hazard.	Install	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£70,000.00	01/07/2025
Peter Pan playground (Madeira Drive)	External Areas	Playground Equipment	Other	Replacement of non-compliant/life expired water-play equipment and plant	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£80,000.00	01/04/2024
								£150,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Volk's Railway									
Volk's Railway	External Areas	Walls, Fences & Gates	Fence	Maintenance of seafront fencing around the railway. Safety critical.	Repair	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£10,000.00	Rolling programme
Volk's Railway	External Areas	Ancillary Structures	Other	Track Renewal. Safety critical	Install	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£15,000.00	Rolling programme
Volk's Railway	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Other	Train Inspections. Safety critical.	Other	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£10,000.00	Rolling programme
Volk's Railway	Mechanical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Other	Various Statutory Railway Maintenance Contracts. Safety critical	Other	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£9,000.00	Rolling programme
Volk's Railway	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Update electrical control system of trains	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£35,000.00	27/11/2025
								£79,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Sports & Leisure									
The Manor	Roofs	Flat Roof	Roof Covering	Replacement Roof	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£250,000.00	11.5.24
The Manor	Mechanical Services	Heat Source & Equipment	Gas Burner	Heating System	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£50,000.00	2.9.24
Prince Regent Swimming Complex	Swimming Pool	Indoor Swimming Pool	Pool Structure	Moveable floor in flexi pool has reached the end of its servicable life.	Refurbish/Upgrade	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£300,000.00	Dec-25
Prince Regent Swimming Complex	Mechanical Services	Power Distribution & Equipment	Other	Air circulation duct work on roof	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£42,000.00	Dec-25
								£642,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Corporate Landlord - Essential Works									
Various sites	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Essential & urgent works to various sites and buildings	Refurbish/Upgrade	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£357,507.03	N/A
								£357,507.03	SUB-TOTAL
								£4,009,540.00	TOTAL

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SOCIAL CARE PLANNED MAINTENANCE BUDGET - CONDITION SURVEY DATA TO SUPPORT FUNDING BIDS 2026 / 2027

Your Name:

Condition Rating

Each building element listed below must have an overall condition rating A to D:

- A = Good condition
- B = Satisfactory Condition
- C = Poor Condition
- D = Life Expired

Your Directorate:

Planned Programme; December 2025

Priority Rating

Each item of work identified below must be given a priority rating 1 to 3:

- 1 = Urgent (required now to prevent closure/ H&S breach)
- 2 = Essential (required within two years)
- 3 = Desirable (required within three to five years)

Property Name	Building Element	Brief Description of Works Identified	Condition Category	Priority Rating	Estimated Cost	Survey Source	
						CA	Survey Date
INTERNAL [4RV011]							
Beach House	Internal Refurbishment	Redecorate FF Bedrooms and Offices. Upgrade floor coverings	C	2	£25,000	SL	08/12/2025
83 Beaconsfield Villas	Internal Refurbishment	Bedroom refurbishments	D	2	£20,000	SL	24/09/2025
Craven Vale	Internal Refurbishment	Internal refurbishment to FF Corridor	C	2	£12,000	SL	02/10/2025
55 Drove Road	Internal Refurbishment	Internal refurbishment	C	2	£10,000	SL	20/08/2025
Ireland Lodge	Internal Refurbishment	Bedroom redecoration	C	2	£5,000	SL	02/10/2025
North Portslade Family Hub	Internal Refurbishment	Internal refurbishment	C	2	£5,000	SL	04/09/2025
Sellaby House	Internal Refurbishment	Internal refurbishment	C	2	£15,000	SL	10/09/2025
Wayfield Avenue	Internal Refurbishment	Redecorate bedrooms and form new store to oil tank room	C	2	£23,000	SL	19/11/2025
Wellington House	Internal Refurbishment	Internal refurbishment	C	2	£20,000	SL	19/11/2025
INTERNAL [4RV011] TOTAL					£135,000		
EXTERNAL [4RV104]							
Craven Vale	External Walls & Cladding	Upgrade wall cladding and improve insulation. Repointing and upgrade rainwater goods	C	2	£75,000	SL	02/10/2025
Hangleton Family Hub	Paths & Hardstandings	Playground landscaping	C	2	£30,000	SL	21/05/2025
Hollingdean Family Hub	Soffits, Fascias & RW Goods	Form new surface water soakaways	D	2	£10,000	SL	02/10/2025
Ireland Lodge	External Decoration	Redecorate external walls. Overhaul roofs and rainwater goods	C	2	£20,000	SL	02/10/2025
Moulsecobm Family Hub	Paths & Hardstandings	Playground canopy	C	2	£20,000	SL	04/06/2025
Sellaby House	External Walls & Cladding	Replace courtyard roof canopy. External timber repairs and redecoration. Install linear drain to main entrance	D	2	£18,000	SL	10/09/2025
South Portslade Family Hub	Paths & Hardstandings	Playground landscaping and canopy	C	2	£20,000	SL	21/05/2025
Tamer Family Hub	Paths & Hardstandings	Japanese Knotweed treatment	D	2	£2,000	SL	12/03/2025
Wayfield Avenue	Paths & Hardstandings	Japanese Knotweed treatment	D	2	£2,000	SL	19/11/2025
Whitehawk Family Hub	Paths & Hardstandings	Upgrade shade sail	C	2	£5,000	SL	28/08/2025
EXTERNAL [4RV104] TOTAL					£202,000		
MECHANICAL [4RV103]							
Drove Rd and Wayfield Avenue	Mechanical	Improve main catering Kitchen ventilation system	D	2	£10,000	PHT	15/11/2023
MECHANICAL [4RV103] TOTAL					£10,000		
ELECTRICAL [4RV081]							
Various properties	Electrical	Upgrade lighting to improve energy efficiency (PHASE 2)	C	2	£15,000	SL	Various
Wayfield Avenue	Electrical	Upgrade access controls to improve security	D	2	£3,000	SL	11/12/2025
ELECTRICAL [4RV081] TOTAL					£18,000		
FIRE PRECAUTION WORK [4RV100]							
Various properties	Other	Fire precaution remedial work. Produce fire strategies. Undertake compartmentation and door surveys	D	2	£135,000	SL	Various
FIRE PRECAUTION WORK [4RV100] TOTAL					£135,000		
TOTAL					£500,000		

ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND - CONDITION SURVEY DATA TO SUPPORT FUNDING BIDS 2026 / 2027

Your Name:

Your Directorate:

Condition Rating
Each building element listed below must have an overall condition rating A to D:

- A = Good condition
- B = Satisfactory Condition
- C = Poor Condition
- D = Life Expired

Please complete the information below and e-mail to "amp@brighton-hove.gov.uk" as soon as possible and no later than 31st December 2025.

Priority Rating
Each item of work identified below must be given a priority rating 1 to 3:

- 1 = Urgent Work (required now to prevent closure or a H&S breach)
- 2 = Essential Work (required within two years)
- 3 = Desirable Work (required within three to five years)

Property Name	Element <i>select from dropdown</i>	Feature <i>select from dropdown</i>	Attribute <i>select from dropdown</i>	Brief Description of Defect <i>maximum 240 characters</i>	Action Required <i>select from dropdown</i>	Condition	Priority	Estimated Cost £	Date of Condition Survey
						<i>select from dropdown</i>			
General Property Improvements									
Corporate Property Portfolio	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Ongoing funds required for CAFM (Concerto) system and associated Business Analyst (SO1/2) role	Other	N/A	1: Urgent	£70,000.00	N/A
Corporate Property Portfolio	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Energy Performance certificates - whole portfolio	Other	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£30,000.00	N/A
Barts House, Hove Town Hall, Montague House	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	General Property Improvements - Workspace Innovation Programme - Corporate programme project support, service delivery changes, Operational Accommodation strategy. Clear Barts House for sale/lease and improve usage of Hove Town Hall.	None		1: Urgent	£130,000.00	N/A
14 Harnsworth Crescent, Hove (Hangleton Community Centre)	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Property Condition Survey	Inspect/Investigate	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£2,000.00	N/A
33 Southover Street, Brighton (Hanover Community Centre)	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Property Condition Survey	Inspect/Investigate	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£4,100.00	N/A
Old Boat Corner Community Association Ltd (Carden Community Centre)	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Property Condition Survey	Inspect/Investigate	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£4,700.00	N/A
Tamer Park, 99 Sussex Street, Brighton (Tamerland Ex WC Block)	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Property Condition Survey	Inspect/Investigate	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£3,000.00	N/A
Other high-priority sites including HTH	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Property Condition Survey	Inspect/Investigate	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£156,200.00	N/A
								£400,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Equality Act Improvements									
Hove Town Hall	Mechanical Services	Lifts & Hoists	Passenger Lift	Adapt 2nd lift at Hove Town Hall into evacuation lift	Install	C - Poor	1: Urgent	£75,000.00	N/A
Hove Town Hall	Floors & Staircases	Internal Stairs & Ramps	Ramp	Hove Town Hall internal accessible ramp (Chattri area)	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	2: Within 2 years	£20,000.00	N/A
Hove Town Hall	Sanitary Services	Toilet	Fitting	Hove Town Hall Changing Places Toilet for staff/public use	Install	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£30,000.00	N/A
Hove Town Hall	Mechanical Services	Lifts & Hoists	Passenger Lift	Hove Town Hall main reception lifts - Compliance issue - overspeed governor ropes required for both lifts plus refresh of internal skins	Install	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£120,000.00	01/10/2025
Portslade Town Hall	External Areas	Access Routes	Ramp	Portslade Town Hall Front Entrance Ramp -	Install	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£20,000.00	N/A
Withdean Sports Complex	Roofs	Access & Security	Other	Install fall arrest system to enable safe rooftop access for ongoing PV maintenance and inspections. Improves health and safety compliance and ensures future servicing can be carried out efficiently and securely.	Install	D - Life expired	1: Urgent	£16,457.81	Energy team have flagged
Roundabout Childrens Centre	Electrical Services	Power Generation	Solar Photo Voltaic (PV)	Install fall arrest system to enable safe rooftop access for ongoing PV maintenance and inspections. Improves health and safety compliance and ensures future servicing can be carried out efficiently and securely.	Install	D - Life expired	1: Urgent	£36,860.94	Energy team have flagged
Corporate Property Portfolio	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Other rolling programme of access improvements to corporate buildings	Other	N/A	1: Urgent	£66,681.25	N/A
								£385,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
Property related Health & Safety Legislation work items									
Corporate Property Portfolio	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Asbestos surveys - whole portfolio	Other	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£50,000.00	N/A
Corporate Property Portfolio	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Legionella remedials - whole portfolio	Other	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£30,000.00	N/A
Hove Town Hall	Electrical Services	Fire Safety & Security	Other	Install fire panel repeater at main entrance for quick fire service access and add firefighter PV isolation switch and associated wiring to improve emergency response and safety compliance.	Install	C - Poor	2: Within 2 years	£5,000.00	N/A
Corporate Offices	Internal Walls, Windows & Doors	Internal Walls & Partitions	Fire Compartmentation	Fire related capital expenditure - Fire Compartmentalisation, Fire doors, Fire Stopping - Corporate Offices	Inspect/Investigate	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£100,000.00	N/A
Corporate Property Portfolio	Unclassified	Unclassified General	Other	Fire Risk Assessment Tasks- capital spend remedials such as new fire alarm systems, fire doors, fire compartmentalisation works following FRA taking place.	Renew/Replace	D - Life Expired	1: Urgent	£30,000.00	N/A
								£215,000.00	SUB-TOTAL
								£1,000,000.00	TOTAL

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Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 152

Subject: Pride in Place Programme

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Leader of the Council

Lead Officer: Corporate Director for Homes & Adult Social Care

Contact Officer: Darren Levy

Email: Darren.levy@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Whitehawk & Marina;

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000.

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report briefs members on the inclusion of Whitehawk area in the Government's Pride in Place Programme. It asks Cabinet to note the nature of this community-led programme and seeks approval for the actions required from the City Council to support the establishment of a Neighbourhood Board and the facilitation of early community engagement, using grant funding received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

1.2 The Council Plan 'A Better Brighton & Hove 2023 to 2027' sets out a vision for Brighton & Hove to be a city to be proud of and a healthy, fair and inclusive city where everyone thrives. This report proposes the administration and delivery of a programme of grant funded investment which will directly contribute to the delivery of outcome 1, 'A city to be proud of', outcome 2, 'A fair and inclusive city' and outcome 3, 'A healthy city that helps people thrive'.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approves the acceptance of the Pride in Place funding award by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as set out in section 3 of this report.

- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees that the Council shall provide support to the Pride of Place Programme in the terms specified by MCHLG, including acting as the Board's Accountable Body, in accordance with the obligations and requirements of the Programme.
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Council's S151 Officer, in liaison with the Leader of the Council, to take all actions necessary to support the establishment of the Neighbourhood Board, including appropriate governance arrangements, and to oversee the administration of all Pride in Place grant funding received from the MHCLG in accordance with published guidance and legal responsibilities.
- 2.4 That Cabinet notes the intention for the ward councillors for Whitehawk ward to be appointed by full Council at its AGM in May 2026 as members of the Neighbourhood Board.
- 2.5 That Cabinet notes a further report will come to Cabinet in January 2027 to update on the governance and administrative arrangements that have been put in place with the Neighbourhood Board and to report on the long-term plan.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Pride in Place Strategy and Programme was launched by the Prime Minister in late September 2025. The initiative is a long-term, community-led programme that gives local people power over how investment is used in their neighbourhood. Investment funding will be up to £20 million over a 10-year period.
- 3.2 An area broadly described as Whitehawk was selected in the Pride in Place Programme by government. Please see the initial boundary map at Appendix 1. Locations were selected by criteria described as those that are 'doubly disadvantaged' by both the highest deprivation levels and weakest social infrastructure. The government has used 'needs metrics', such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation, to identify areas for funding awards. Further detail of the data can be found here. Background document 1 - Pride in Place Programme_ FAQ - GOV.UK
- 3.3 The recently announced Pride in Place programme is referred to as Phase 2, with the previous 'Plan for Neighbourhood' initiative, now referred to as Phase 1 of Pride in Place.
- 3.4 Initial guidance for phase 2 was published in September 2025 alongside the government's original announcement, with detailed guidance then released in December 2025 which can be found here Background document 2 - Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK
- 3.5 The award represents a unique and exciting opportunity for the city and the Council to support local residents in driving long lasting and material change, to improve the quality of life and living environment across the Whitehawk neighbourhood area.

3.6 **The Neighbourhood Board**

- 3.7 Core to the funding and the programme is the creation of a Neighbourhood Board. The Neighbourhood Board needs to include residents, community representatives and key partners, alongside the local MP and at least one ward councilor.
- 3.8 The Board will be responsible for developing a 10-year regeneration plan to utilise the £20 million funding stream. Its core functions will be to:
- Set priorities based on community engagement
 - Oversee the creation and implementation of the long-term plan
 - Guide how Pride in Place funding is used
 - Ensure transparency, inclusion and accountability
- 3.9 The Guidance specifies that the Neighbourhood Board should be led by an independent Chair, appointed by the local authority and the local MP.
- 3.10 A recruitment campaign advertising for a Chair was launched by the Council in partnership with the local MP in February 2026, with the aim of making an appointment by April 2026.
- 3.11 The Council has also invited nominees from local community and resident groups to be part of a stakeholder panel that will form part of the recruitment and selection process for the Whitehawk Neighbourhood Board Chair.
- 3.12 The role of the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board can be summarised as below, to:
- Bring together residents, community groups and partners
 - Ensure local voices shape decisions
 - Chair meetings and support inclusive discussion
 - Act as a public champion for Whitehawk
- 3.13 The government has said that Neighbourhood Boards should reflect the diversity and range of needs across the neighbourhood they represent. At least 51% of Board members should either be living or working within the area to ensure it is community and resident led.
- 3.14 The governance arrangements of the Neighbourhood Board are to be agreed with the Council in consultation with the Local MP, once it has been established. The terms of reference for the Board will include:
- Governance Model
 - Role and Responsibilities
 - Board Positions
 - Code of Conduct
 - Decision Making
 - Scrutiny

- Transparency and Accountability
 - Board Member profiles
 - Conflicts of Interest
 - Scheme of Delegations
- 3.15 The government prospectus sets out an expectation that each Board must transition towards a community-led model of delivery by year three of the programme. This might mean an established local community organisation acting as an anchor institution, or the Board itself becoming a co-operative, community interest company, community benefit society or charity. A new Communities Delivery Unit in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will support the transition.
- 3.16 Neighbourhood Area**
- 3.17 The draft boundary for the neighbourhood area was included within the information provided to the Council as part of the award of Pride in Place funding and is found at Appendix 1 -PIPP Whitehawk Boundary Map. The government has set out guidance for how Neighborhood Boards may seek to alter the boundary area.
- 3.18 Guidance set out in the prospectus allows boards to “Define the Neighbourhood.” The Board is able to amend their boundaries, upon agreement with the MHCLG. Changes must be within the spirit of the programme and underpinned by evidence of community support. Proposals to alter the ‘default’ area boundary must be submitted to MHCLG by 17 July 2026. Background document 3- Pride in Place Programme_ governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK
- 3.19 Resourcing Requirements**
- 3.20 Adequate resourcing will be required within the Council to support the activities of the Board and fulfil both the Council’s legal and financial obligations in being the accountable body for the administration of funding from MHCLG, and then to issue funding as directed by the Neighbourhood Board.
- 3.21 Work is underway to assess requirements, and approval is sought in the first instance at 2.3 to progress in agreeing and implementing appropriate governance and resources.
- 3.22 As outlined at 2.5, it is intended to bring a further report back to Cabinet ahead of the full funding programme commencing in April 2027; to provide assurance to Cabinet that appropriate arrangements are in place and to seek any further approvals and delegations as appropriate.
- 3.23 The revenue element of ongoing funding, as outlined as 3.26, can be used to fund the support and administration of the Programme.
- 3.24 Funding and Interventions**

- 3.25 The Pride in Place funding programme sets out that the Whitehawk neighbourhood will receive £20m of funding and support over 10 years. This is broken down to 67% capital funding and 33% revenue funding.
- 3.26 In January 2026, the Council received forward revenue capacity funding of £0.150m, with a further £0.270m to be paid in two tranches over the 2026/27 financial year.
- 3.27 In addition, capital funding of £0.120m is also being provided for 2026/27, ahead of the main programme of funding starting from April 2027.
- 3.28 This funding is to help support the Council in establishing and then supporting the Neighbourhood Board, to provide funding for the Neighbourhood Board's engagement programme which will inform the outline investment programme and can also be used as a source of funding for immediate priorities and projects as requested or required by the local community and residents.
- 3.29 A list of pre-approved interventions has been included within the guidance for the programme, see Background Document 4 - Pride in Place Programme_ list of indicative interventions - GOV.UK which would not require further approvals from MHCLG and so allowing the Neighbourhood Board the freedom to award funds directly, if the allocations are within the parameters of the pre-approved list. As the accountable body the Council will have obligations to ensure monies are appropriately allocated and spent.
- 3.30 Where potential activity falls outside the scope of the indicative interventions, but the Board based on their community engagement believe they are core to meeting local needs, the government would still consider these initiatives. They would though require a separate business case, to be agreed with the Council and MHCLG
- 3.31 **Timetable**
- 3.32 An outline timetable for the coming year of the Whitehawk programme is set out below:
- January 2026 first tranche of funding allocated to the Council
 - February – March 2026 Advertisement of Chair role and recruitment process
 - March 2026 Cabinet report to seek necessary delegations for the Pride in Place Programme
 - April 2026 Appointment of Chair
 - April – July 2026 Recruitment and appointment of Neighbourhood Board
 - 17th July 2026 Deadline for informing MHCLG of proposed Neighbourhood Board membership
 - July – November 2026 Community engagement and development of long-term plan
 - November / December 2026 Neighbourhood Board to submit plan to MHCLG
 - April 2027 10-year funding and plan commences

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The guidance and requirements of the Pride in Place programme are quite prescriptive, and so no alternative model has been considered.
- 4.2 It is a working assumption that the Council would want to continue with the programme and will be minded to support the long-term funding being made available to one of its areas.
- 4.3 The proposed delegations will enable final details for the establishment of the Neighbourhood Board to be agreed in partnership with the Council.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 A range of community stakeholders have been invited to form a stakeholder panel that will be a part of the recruitment process for the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board.
- 5.2 Once in post, the Chair - with the support of the Council, local MP and Whitehawk ward councillors - will initiate a recruitment process for the Neighbourhood Board, targeting local residents and communities.
- 5.3 Once the Neighbourhood Board is established, a programme of engagement will be undertaken to inform the long-term plan to be submitted to MHCLG. The details of the engagement programme will be agreed and overseen by the Neighbourhood Board.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 As outlined in the report, the total funding allocation for the Pride in Place programme is up to £20m over 10 years, of which 67% is capital funding and 33% is revenue funding. This includes £0.420m to resource the initial set-up and ongoing operation of a Neighbourhood Board. Please see: Background document 5 - Pride in Place Programme_ funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK
- 6.2 The Neighbourhood Board that is being established will give local people the power to decide how funding is spent, and this report seeks Cabinet's approval to delegate authority to the S151 officer to administer the funding.
- 6.3 Further Cabinet approval will need to be sought ahead of the full funding programme commencing in April 2027.

Name of finance officer consulted: Sophie Warburton Date consulted: 12/02/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 While section 1 of the Localism Act 2021 gives local authorities a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in their area,

Cabinet will wish to note those parts of the guidance which emphasize the key importance of the Council's role as accountable body. The [guidance](#) states that "*the relevant local authority in each place will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the [Nolan Principles](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) principles*". This guidance goes on to state that "*accountable bodies may need to recover funding from project deliverers where subsidy control or state aid law has not been complied with*" and "*work closely with their place's Neighbourhood Board to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for funding*".

- 7.2 As accountable body, the Council will retain responsibility for ensuring that all awards of grants under the Pride in Place scheme are legally compliant. This will require checking that the terms of any grant award that is made do not conflict with any other funding or other restriction already in place in relation to a scheme, project or property, as well as ensuring compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and obtaining any necessary Environmental Assessments. Where any grant funds are to be spent on supplies, works or services, the Council must undertake any commissioning activity in accordance with its Contract Procedure Rules and any relevant national procurement legislation, while meeting any framework or procurement related obligations.
- 7.3 In the award of any grants or the passporting of grant monies, it will be for the Council to consider the Subsidy Control regime and to comply with relevant provisions. The guidance expressly notes the risk that grant awards may amount to a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, and external advice is considered likely to be needed to support this.
- 7.4 The above expectations will apply in addition to the Council's transparency obligations, which must be complied with. In all of this, it will be incumbent on the Council to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the obligations imposed on it by the MCHLG in the grant arrangements it specifies. The Council will be required to meet the objectives, terms and conditions and milestones of the funding imposed by the funding authority. This includes any requirement to provide match funding, as well as the requirement to keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns. While the terms of any MoU or grant agreement will be reviewed by the SRO, supported by legal and finance colleagues, where those provisions generate risk then the S151 officer will be alerted.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted: 02.03.2026

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The timescales for the Pride in Place Phase 2 present a risk as the Regeneration Plan is required to be submitted by the end of 2026.

- 8.2 Risks are associated with managing and meeting community expectations, including around the speed with which the delivery of interventions is agreed and implemented.
- 8.3 Risks are associated with ensuring adequate Council resources are in place to enable it to support the initiative effectively, including but not only by acting as the accountable body for the fund throughout the 10-year programme period, assuming it retains that role.
- 8.4 These risks will require robust programme management from both the Neighbourhood Board and Council, with adequate resourcing being agreed within the Council to support, enable and facilitate the programme. A comprehensive programme of community engagement and resident consultation will be required to develop a long-term plan based on the priorities of the community.
- 8.5 MHCLG requires the Council and Neighbourhood Board to report on progress with the programme on a 6 and 12-month basis. This is set out in their monitoring guidance, please see: Background document 6 - Pride in Place Programme_ monitoring guidance - GOV.UK
- 8.6 The information and data that will be required is intended to:
- Ensure MHCLG have a programme level view of progress across all places
 - Allow MHCLG to monitor that the Programme's monies are being spent on local priorities, and that project/activity delivery is in line with expectations detailed in Investment Plans
 - Support additional performance management processes, e.g. project change processes and formalised end of investment period progress reviews
 - Ensure effective programme communications, allowing MHCLG to collect and highlight examples of successful delivery and impact in places
- 8.7 A formalised progress review will take place at the end of each investment period. These review points will allow the MHCLG's Communities Delivery Unit to consider whether the Programme's strategic objectives are being delivered effectively and how expenditure is progressing against forecasts. Further detail on measures that could be taken in the case of non-performance are still to be published. please see: Background Document 6 - Pride in Place Programme_ monitoring guidance - GOV.UK

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 There are no direct Equalities Implications in the context of this report and the approvals requested.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 There are no direct Sustainability Implications in the context of this report

and the approvals requested.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 There are no direct Health and Wellbeing Implications in the context of this report and the approvals requested.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 There are no direct Procurement Implications in the context of this report and the approvals requested.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

- 13.1 There are no direct Procurement Implications in the context of this report and the approvals requested.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 The Pride in Place programme is an exciting and potentially life and place changing programme of funding and activity, to be led by the priorities of the residents and communities of Whitehawk.
- 14.2 It will be crucial to the success of the programme for the Council to ensure it has adequate resources, governance and financial robustness in place, to enable it to fulfil the role of accountable body. The intention of this paper is to provide the foundation for that implementation over the coming year.
- 14.3 It is strongly recommended that Cabinet embrace the opportunity that has been awarded to Whitehawk by the government, and consent to the Council accepting the Pride in Place programme requirements and funding.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

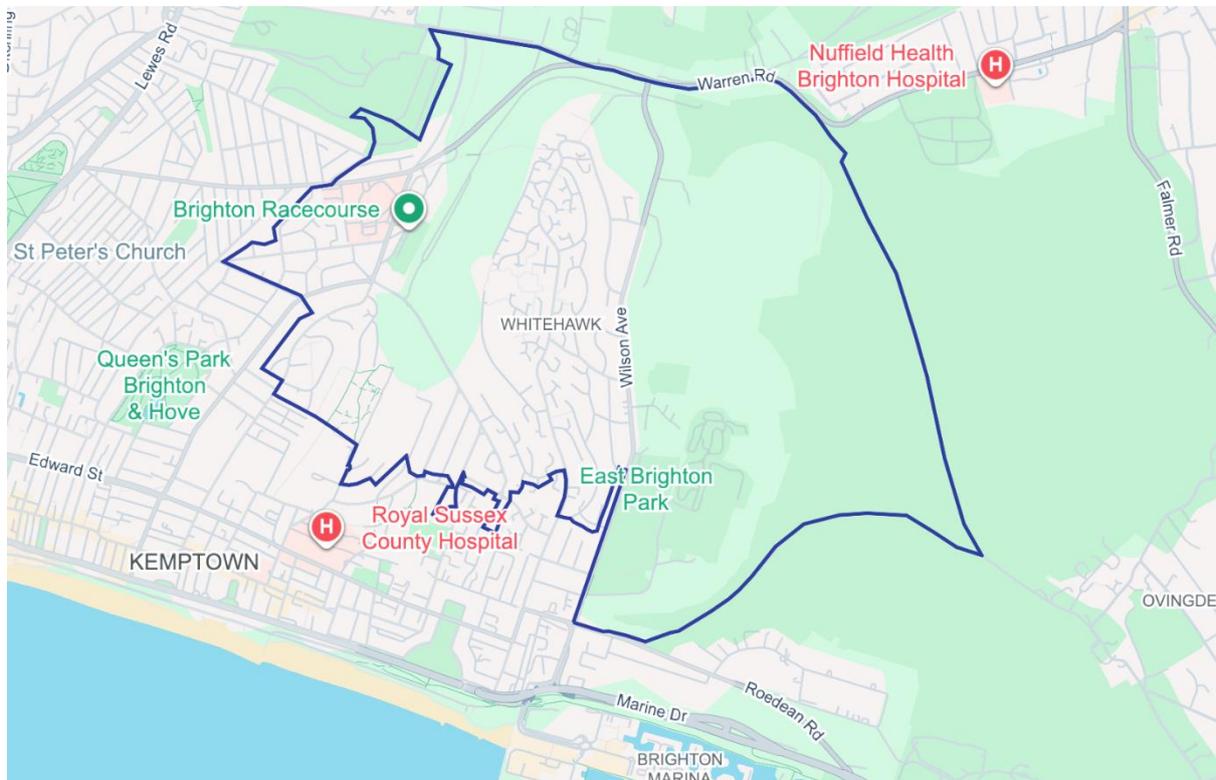
1. Whitehawk Boundary Map

Background Documents

1. Pride in Place Programme FAQ: [Pride in Place Programme: FAQ - GOV.UK](#)
2. Pride in Place programme prospectus: [Pride in Place Programme: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
3. Pride in Place Programme Governance and Boundary guidance: [Pride in Place Programme: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)
4. List of indicative interventions: [Pride in Place Programme: list of indicative interventions - GOV.UK](#)

5. Pride in Place Programme – Funding profiles and timelines: [Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK](#)
6. Pride in Place Programme Monitoring Guidance: [Pride in Place Programme: monitoring guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Figure 1 - The current PIPP (MSOA/ONS) Boundary from MHCLG



The default geographic boundary for each place is determined as follows:

In England, neighbourhoods are defined as Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). These are [ONS census geographies](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/geographies) with a resident population of between 5,000 and 15,000 people.

Here's a link to the MSOA map: Whitehawk PIPP is **E02003515**

https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/datasets/12baf1e6a44441208ffe5ba5ed063a68_0/explore?location=50.825727%2C-0.107709%2C14.00

More details on the methodology of how areas were chosen can be found here [Pride in Place Programme phase 2: methodology note - GOV.UK](#)

The key methodological principle is the **Focus on need**: All methodologies use a composite measure of deprivation (Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)) and community need (Community Needs Index (CNI)), to identify areas with the poorest social and economic outcomes and create a single index of need. Deprivation refers to a lack of material resource and access to opportunities, while community need captures challenges such as poor access to services, limited community infrastructure, and low civic participation. The most deprived areas are then selected to receive funding.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 153

Subject: Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

Lead Officer: Corporate Director- Operations

Contact Officer: Clare Flowers

Email: clare.flowers@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report seeks Cabinet agreement to formally adopt and publish an Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note (PAN) (see Appendix 1) which provides updated good practice and technical guidance to support the implementation of Policy CP20 Affordable Housing and other relevant policies in the adopted City Plan. This supports the objective 'Homes for Everyone' in the Council Plan which sets the goal to deliver accessible, affordable and high quality homes for all residents of Brighton & Hove. Under the Council Plan heading 'Increasing housing supply' this PAN will help achieve the goal of '*addressing the mix of housing the city needs, including the need for more affordable family homes.*'

1.2 The PAN is a collaborative project between officers in the Planning Policy team and Strategic Housing & Development team. It will replace previous guidance set out in the Affordable Housing Brief (AHB) which was most recently updated in 2021. The PAN sets out the council's preferred approach to securing affordable housing through Section 106 planning agreements and draws on recently updated evidence about housing needs in the city and changes to national policy. As part of its preparation the PAN has been subject to a focused consultation with local housing providers, developers and agents.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet agrees to adopt the Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note (PAN) at Appendix 1 and authorises the Head of Planning to make any necessary minor non-material text and illustrative alterations prior to its publication.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 City Plan Policy CP20 sets a requirement for 40% affordable housing to be provided by developers in schemes of 15 or more homes and requires smaller percentages of affordable housing on site or an *in lieu* financial contribution in schemes down to 5 homes. These requirements are subject to development viability which is tested at the planning application stage if a policy-compliant level of affordable housing is not proposed.
- 3.2 The council publishes guidance for implementing Policy CP20 for affordable housing secured through Section 106 agreements by setting out the council's preferred tenure mix and unit size mix. Current guidance is in the AHB, which seeks a preferred mix of 55% affordable housing to rent and 45% affordable housing to buy (allowing for shared ownership First Homes and other Low-Cost Home Ownership models). The Affordable Housing PAN has been subject to external consultation and updated to reflect current evidence and changes to national guidance which gives additional weight to existing guidance set out in the AHB.
- 3.3 The key amendment set out in the PAN is to update the preferred tenure mix in line with current evidence and to reflect changes to national planning policy. Recent evidence in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2023 clearly indicates that the greatest need in the city is for affordable housing to rent, especially homes let at social rent levels. The starting point will now be to seek 100% affordable housing to rent (comprising either social or affordable rent subject to viability considerations).
- 3.4 Whilst Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) including shared ownership will not normally be sought through Section 106 agreements, the council will support the delivery of such homes as 'additional' affordable units delivered with the help of affordable housing grant or other sources of funding, as well as part of 100% affordable housing schemes brought forward by Registered Providers.
- 3.5 The PAN also includes minor amendments to the preferred unit size mix with an increased proportion of 30-35% three- and four-bedroom units now preferred rather than the 25% set out in the AHB, with a proportionate reduction in the number of two-bedroom units provided for affordable rent. This will assist the council in addressing the extremely long waiting time on the housing register for family-size accommodation and enable families to remain in the city rather than move out to more affordable towns nearby. Although Policy CP20 already sets a preferred size mix it specifies that up-to-date assessments of local need will be a consideration on individual sites. The amended size mix also reflects the recommendations of the SHMA 2023.
- 3.6 Other amendments and clarifications in the PAN include the following:

- Local eligibility requirements are now specified for Affordable Private Rent/Discounted Market Rent units provided within Build to Rent developments. The local eligibility requirements to be sought for occupants of First Homes have also been clarified.
- The PAN highlights the need for developers to engage with affordable housing providers prior to submitting a planning application and indicates that the affordable housing value used in viability assessment should (where possible) reflect offers from, or discussions with a Registered Provider.
- Where the provision of onsite affordable housing delivery is demonstrated not to be viable, the PAN outlines a ‘cascade’ of alternative options, which include consideration of the council directly purchasing the affordable homes for rent (subject to assessment and viability); or, if that is not achievable, a financial payment in lieu (commuted sum) which the council will then use to help fund its own affordable housing programmes.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The decision to prepare an Affordable Housing PAN to replace the AHB was intended to update and clarify the previous guidance, but also to give it greater weight as a material planning consideration in council officer negotiations with planning applicants and developers. The PAN provides guidance and does not alter the affordable housing policy set in the adopted City Plan. There remains a need to review and update the affordable housing policy itself through the emerging City Plan 2041. The SHMA 2023 has provided an updated assessment of affordable housing needs.
- 4.2 Whilst recognising that a new City Plan will be prepared, it is intended that the PAN will in the interim carry greater planning weight than the AHB did (which will no longer be used), having been subject to consultation with local housing providers, developers and agents, and drawing on updated evidence on local housing needs provided by the SHMA. It better reflects the council’s housing priorities and the importance the council attaches to delivering housing which genuinely addresses the needs of local residents.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 A four-week focused informal consultation with external housing providers, developers, local agents and relevant Council officers was undertaken between 11 November and 10 December 2025. Member liaison and engagement was carried out through the Planning Policy Members Advisory Working Group. A consultation summary is below. More details on the consultation and responses can be seen at Appendix 2.

Consultation response summary	Officer response
Support for the PAN's approach	Responses welcomed
Highlighting national problems delivering s106 affordable housing leading to concerns that the PAN should allow flexibility in both tenure and mix given that 100% affordable housing to rent can negatively impact development viability	The PAN states the council 'will normally seek' 100% affordable housing to rent. There remains flexibility through existing planning policy at site level to ensure developments remain viable.
Requests to change the City Plan policies to raise site size thresholds for s106 affordable housing and lower the overall requirement for affordable housing	The PAN does not change City Plan policy. New policies will be introduced through the City Plan review

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The PAN will enable the council to better negotiate the delivery of affordable housing (or equivalent off-site financial contributions) through developer contributions as part of Section 106 agreements. The provision of more affordable housing will, in the medium to longer term, contribute to mitigating financial pressure on the General Fund resulting from the council having to support large numbers of families in temporary accommodation. Where the PAN refers to the use of council funds (such as the option for council purchase of affordable rent homes on sites where there is no interest from other affordable housing providers), this reflects already established council policy.

Name of finance officer consulted: John Lack Date consulted: 22/01/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The Planning Advice Note will act as supplementary guidance to inform both applicants and decision-makers of the Council's approach to affordable housing. Note that unless formally adopted as a Development Plan Document (DPD) following statutory procedures, the Advice Note will not have the status of part of the statutory development plan. Instead, it will be a material consideration in decision-making under section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to be weighed alongside the adopted development plan and other material considerations.
- 7.2 The weight to be given to the Advice Note in individual planning decisions will depend on its consistency with adopted policy, and relevance to the application in question. While planning authorities are entitled to adopt and apply local policies as material considerations, such policies must not fetter the statutory duty to determine applications in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise

Name of lawyer consulted: Katie Kam Date consulted (19/01/2026):

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The council's Strategic Risk 21 seeks to deliver new affordable homes. There is a risk that fewer overall affordable homes may be delivered through s106 agreement, as rented affordable housing is more expensive to provide than shared ownership units. However, Strategic Risk 21 also notes that the demand for affordable rented homes is growing with a significant number of households in temporary accommodation. The PAN seeks 100% affordable housing to rent in the first instance which will help meet this demand and provide homes for households currently in temporary accommodation.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The PAN is published as technical guidance supporting affordable housing policy CP20 as set out in the adopted City Plan Part 1 and the council's housing priorities. The City Plan was subject to a Health and Equalities Impact Assessment as part of its preparation. The assessment appraisal focused on key determinants of health and equality, applying a community profile to establish local circumstance and associated susceptibility to potential health outcomes. City Wide policies including policy CP20, were considered individually. The outcomes of the Assessment for these city wide policies are:
- They are not anticipated to adversely impact upon any particular sensitive community groups
 - They are geared to support the development of more sustainable, cohesive and vibrant communities.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 None identified.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 The PAN will help to reduce inequalities across the city by helping to secure the delivery of affordable housing which best meets the range of identified housing needs in the city. Meeting the needs of individuals when delivering services will positively impact upon equality outcomes. The PAN sets out affordable housing design criteria including units required for people with disabilities. Improved opportunities for households to access appropriate accommodation will improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 None identified.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

- 13.1 None identified.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 Delivery of affordable housing is a key priority for the Council and the PAN will provide important practical guidance to assist the implementation of Policy CP20 and other policies in the adopted City Plan. The PAN will guide and give weight to officer discussions and negotiations with developers regarding current affordable housing need when determining planning applications for housing in the city.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note (PAN)
2. Consultation responses

2. Background documents

1. Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One (includes Policy CP20: Affordable Housing) [City Plan Part One \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/city-plan-part-one)
2. Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2023
[Strategic Housing Market Assessment - August 2023 \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/strategic-housing-market-assessment-august-2023)
3. Brighton & Hove City Council plan 2023 to 2027 refresh 2025
[Brighton & Hove City Council plan 2023 to 2027 refresh 2025 \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/city-council-plan-2023-to-2027-refresh-2025)

DRAFT PAN 00

Affordable Housing

March 2026



Brighton & Hove City Council's Local Development Framework

Image to be added

Planning Advice Note



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Affordable Housing

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Affordable Housing

Introduction

Within Brighton & Hove there is a significant need for affordable housing and the council is committed to maximising provision wherever possible.

This document sets out council guidance on the housing and planning requirements for affordable housing within the city, as required through Policy CP20 in the adopted Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One, and will be treated as a material planning consideration in determining planning applications. The aim is to ensure that the council achieves mixed, balanced and sustainable communities and delivers high quality affordable homes for local people in housing need.

Using this Planning Advice Note

This Planning Advice Note (PAN) replaces the Council's Affordable Housing Brief (2021) and should be read together with the relevant planning policies and the affordable housing validation requirements set out on the Council website. It will be kept under review in the light of all future material information.

The Affordable Housing PAN is primarily aimed at planning applicants; Registered Providers, their designers, architects, consultants; and local authority planning officers. It provides guidance on how to implement policy requirements relating to affordable housing and contribute to building homes for everyone in the city to be proud of.

Relevant National and Local Policy

National Planning Policy

The government national planning policy guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and in the related National Planning Practice Guidance.

The overall objectives for housing outlined in the NPPF are to significantly boost the supply of housing to meet the housing needs of different groups within the community.

National guidance requires local planning authorities to:

- Set out strategic policies informed by a local housing need assessment
- Assess the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community including those who require affordable housing and to reflect this in planning policies
- Specify the type of affordable housing required (applying the NPPF definition) and expect it to be met onsite except where an off-site provision or appropriate financial contribution in lieu can be robustly justified and the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.

Affordable Housing

NPPF Definition of Affordable Housing

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) defines affordable housing as housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the definitions in Appendix 1, summarised below:

- a) Affordable housing for rent – which includes Social and Affordable Rented housing according to the Government’s rent policy that is provided by a registered provider. The exception is purpose-built Build to Rent accommodation.
- b) Discounted market sales housing is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future households.
- c) Other affordable routes to home ownership includes housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low-cost homes for sale (at price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent).

Homes that do not meet the NPPF definition of affordable housing cannot be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

Local Planning Policy

The [Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 1 \(CPP1\)](#) was adopted in March 2016. The Plan includes strategic housing policies for housing delivery in the city to 2030 and policy requirements for affordable housing and housing size mix.

Policy CP20 Affordable Housing sets out specific requirements for the provision of affordable housing on all sites of 5 or more dwellings (net) with the following targets:

- 40% onsite affordable housing provision on sites of 15 or more (net) dwellings
- 30% onsite affordable housing provision on sites of between 10 and 14 (net) dwellings or as an equivalent financial contribution
- 20% affordable housing as an equivalent financial contribution on sites of between 5 and 9 (net) dwellings

The [Brighton & Hove City Plan Part Two](#) was adopted in October 2022. This part of the Plan supports the implementation and delivery of CPP1 by setting out a suite of detailed planning policies to assist in the determination of planning applications. Relevant policies within CPP2 for affordable housing delivery are set out in Appendix 2.

Affordable Housing

Housing Need in Brighton & Hove

In October 2022, the council commissioned an update of its Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to look at demographic trends and housing needs in the city over the period 2022-2041 including overall housing demand by size, type and tenure; categories of affordable housing needed; and housing requirements of specific groups. The [SHMA 2023](#) is available in full on the council's website.

In terms of projected demographic change for 2022-2041, the SHMA suggests that future growth in the city will be primarily the number and proportion of older age groups (aged over 65), with limited growth in the working age population (aged 16-64) and a potential fall in the number of children/young people (aged under 15). This will give rise to a significant projected demand for specialised older persons housing and homes designed for people with mobility issues.

The analysis of income levels, house prices and private rents set out in the SHMA indicates that two-thirds of households in the city cannot afford to buy a home, of which one third are also unable to afford private rents. The SHMA concludes there is likely to be a future need for 1,165 social/affordable rented homes per year (802 per year excluding households already living in unsuitable affordable housing). This level of need indicates that the Council needs to maximise the delivery of both social and affordable rented housing. The SHMA also highlights that social rents are generally more affordable and could benefit a wider range of households. It therefore recommends that social rents should be prioritised where possible. In terms of the need for different sizes of affordable homes, the SHMA suggests the following mix by tenure:

	1-bedroom	2-bedrooms	3-bedrooms	4+-bedrooms
Market	10-15%	45-50%	30-35%	5-10%
Affordable home ownership	30-35%	40-45%	15-20%	5-10%
Affordable housing (rented)	30-35%	35-40%	20-25%	5-10%

Responding to Planning Policy requirements for Affordable Housing

Application of Policy CP20

Policy CP20 applies to all residential developments, including conversions and changes of use, that provide 5 or more dwellings (net) that contribute towards the city's housing target. It states that requirement for affordable housing provision is:

- a) 40% onsite affordable housing provision on sites of 15 or more (net) dwellings;
- b) 30% onsite affordable housing provision on sites of between 10 and 14 (net) dwellings or as an equivalent financial contribution;
- c) 20% affordable housing as an equivalent financial contribution on sites of between 5 and 9 (net) dwellings.

Affordable Housing

The application of the policy is not necessarily restricted to development within Use Class C3, for example it also applies to purpose built shared accommodation (known as 'Co-living').

The policy allows for some flexibility in applying these requirements subject to several specified factors, including financial viability (covered in more detail below). Financial contributions will be sought where the nature of the development proposed would not meet the council's specifications for affordable housing units in the city, for example Co-living.

Policy DM6 sets out specific requirements which apply to the provision of affordable housing within Build to Rent developments in the form of Affordable Private Rent units (also known as Discounted Market Rent units).

The affordable housing requirements for Co-living developments are set out in the council's [Interim Guidance on Co-Living](#) which was agreed by Council in June 2023.

Community led Housing schemes, including co-operative housing, cohousing, community land trusts, and custom and self-build schemes, are not of themselves affordable housing and will also need to meet the council's requirements for affordable housing and applicants should consider how the development will meet CP20 requirements.

Affordable Housing Statement/Proforma

All planning applications for 10 or more residential units that provide policy compliant levels of onsite affordable housing should be supported by an [Affordable Housing Statement](#) setting out details of the proposed affordable housing offer.

This should include information on the individual affordable units, including floor area (sqm); tenure; housing type; number of storeys; bedrooms; bedspaces etc. For schemes of between 5 and 14 residential units where an in lieu financial contribution (commuted payment) is to be provided, a separate [Affordable Housing Proforma](#) should be completed and submitted with the application.

Tenure mix

Our Council Plan 2023-27 priority 'Homes for Everyone' sets a goal to deliver accessible, affordable, and high-quality homes for all residents of Brighton & Hove.

The council will seek to ensure that affordable housing delivered in the city addresses identified local housing needs as far as possible and recognises that there are households seeking a range of different types and tenures of affordable housing in the city. Affordable home ownership can play a role in helping to address local housing need. However, affordable home ownership products are generally provided at costs which are out of reach for most households in need. The evidence in the SHMA 2023 clearly indicates that the greatest need in the city is for affordable housing to rent, especially homes let at social rent levels, and this tenure will be

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treated as the council's priority when bringing the affordable housing forward, subject to viability considerations.

In response to this evidence, the council will normally seek 100% affordable housing to rent (comprising social or affordable rent).

Whilst low-cost home ownership models will not normally be sought by the council as part of affordable housing secured by Section 106 agreements under Policy CP20, the council will support and encourage the delivery of such homes by RPs as 'additional' affordable units delivered with the help of affordable housing grant or other sources of funding.

Policy requirements differ within West Saltdean. Policy WS3 of the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan states that "applications involving affordable housing should have regard to the local needs identified in the West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment 2023. In particular, schemes should prioritise afforded rented tenures at 65% with affordable home ownership products at 35%."

Affordable housing to rent

Housing supply in the city is limited and housing is expensive. As such, our preference is for Social Rents to reflect the affordability challenges in the city. If this is not possible we expect rents on these homes to be the lower of either: no more than 80% market rent; or the Local Housing Allowance for that property size (including any service charge where applicable).

Affordable homes for rent will be subject to a Nominations Agreement and Local Lettings Plan.

Affordable housing to buy

The council will apply the following local eligibility criteria for Low-Cost Home Ownership through the Section 106 agreement during the first three months of marketing and subsequent resales:

Prospective buyers should have a local connection to Brighton & Hove and have either lived in the city in line with the latest adopted Housing Allocations Policy residency requirement or are fulfilling a caring role.

Note: In fulfilment of the Armed Forces Covenant, local connection criteria will not be required for all active members of the Armed Forces, divorced/separated spouses or civil partners of current members of the Armed Forces, spouse or civil partners of a deceased member of the armed forces (if their death was wholly or partly caused by their services) and veterans within 5 years of leaving the armed forces.

Affordable Private Rent/Discounted Market Rent (within Build to Rent developments)

The council will apply the following local eligibility criteria for Affordable Private Rent (Discounted Market Rent tenancies) provided as part of Build to Rent developments:

- Household salary levels will be capped and will be regularly reviewed. in Brighton & Hove unless moving to the city for an eligible job role; or an active

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member of the Armed Forces, divorced/separated spouses or civil partners of current members of the Armed Forces, spouse or civil partners of a deceased member of the armed forces (if their death was wholly or partly caused by their services) and veterans within 5 years of leaving the armed forces.

- People with a disability and/or who are economically active in the city with a maximum household income as stated above. Eligible job roles/groups to be provided by Strategic Housing & Development Team further to discussions with those organisations on roles that are currently hard to recruit and retain.

Housing unit size mix

	1-bedroom	2-bedrooms	3-bedrooms	4+bedrooms
Overall (Policy CP20)	30%	45%	25%	
Affordable rent (SHMA)	30-35%	35-40%	20-25%	5-10%
Affordable home ownership (SHMA)	30-35%	40-45%	15-20%	5-10%

In relation to the figures quoted in the Policy CP20, the updated SHMA figures quoted above suggest a unit size mix with an increased proportion of three- and four-bedroom units and a proportionate reduction in the number of two-bedroom units provided for affordable rent.

To reflect evidence set out in the SHMA the council will seek 30-35% of affordable rented units as 3 or 4 bedroom units. This will assist the council in addressing the extremely long waiting time on the housing register for family-size accommodation and enable families to remain in the city rather than move out to more affordable towns nearby. Applicants should have regard to the updated assessment of the need for different unit sizes when bringing forward development schemes in accordance with Policy CP20 as it specifically notes that up to date assessments of local need will be a consideration.

Where the affordable housing is provided by a Registered Provider the council will nominate people from the Housing Register for 100% of all affordable rented homes on initial lets and 75% on subsequent lets, in accordance with the council's [Housing Allocations Scheme and Guidance](#). This covers occupancy levels in affordable rented homes.

Affordable Housing Design

All developments should have high standards of design, layout and landscaping which reflect the character of the area and local distinctiveness.

Affordable housing should be visually indistinguishable from the market housing on the site in terms of build quality, materials, details, levels of amenity space and privacy. However, Registered Providers may have specific design requirements, for example requiring affordable housing tenancies to be situated in separate blocks of flats or houses for financial and management reasons. For this reason, engagement

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with affordable housing providers on design issues is recommended at the earliest opportunity.

The council will require all housing to meet the technical standards set out in CPP2 Policy DM1, including:

- all residential units should meet the [nationally described space standard](#)
- all residential units should as a minimum be accessible and adaptable in accordance with [Building Regulation M4\(2\)](#)
- for proposals providing 10 or more dwellings, 10% of the affordable residential units and 5% of all the residential units should be suitable for occupation by a wheelchair user in accordance with [Building Regulation M4\(3\)](#). Where this is not practicable onsite an equivalent financial contribution should be provided
- all new residential development will be required to provide usable private outdoor amenity space appropriate to the scale and character of the development.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) definition for people with disabilities states that, 'People have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment, and that impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. These persons include, but are not limited to, people with ambulatory difficulties, blindness, learning difficulties, autism and mental health needs.'

It is also important to remember that the household member with the disability may be the head of household, a cared-for child within a family or an adult dependent, and they may have visiting or live-in carers, or they may be extremely independent once their accommodation needs have been addressed. The council will therefore seek a range of unit sizes to meet these varying needs and may request bespoke accommodation for identified households with specific needs.

With regards to CPP2 Policy DM1, the council's preferred tenure for [wheelchair accessible housing meeting M4\(3\) standards](#) is affordable housing for rent, where viable and practicable, rather than low-cost home ownership but this does not preclude the provision of such accommodation in the market element of a development as well.

The council will require the affordable wheelchair accommodation to be accessible at the point of completion (i.e. ready for occupation) and will nominate suitable occupants for the wheelchair housing. Applicants are strongly recommended to engage with the BHCC Housing Strategy and Development team who can advise on design requirements and the suitability of the site for wheelchair users or people with mobility issues at an early stage in the design process.

Where provision of wheelchair adapted housing is not practicable on a site (e.g., due to site topography or constraints affecting building access) an equivalent financial contribution should be provided to enable alternative provision elsewhere more suitable in the city, or alternative specialist housing for people with other disabilities provided on site as requested by the Strategic Housing & Development Team. For

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example, this might include units with enhanced soundproofing for residents with learning difficulties or autism; ground floor accommodation with access to secure private garden space for residents with service or companion dogs; accommodation in location close to medical facilities for older people; ground floor dwellings with direct access, or other such design considerations that will meet the housing needs of an identified group of residents.

Securing the Delivery of Affordable housing

The council will negotiate with developers to secure the delivery of affordable housing in accordance with Policy CP20 and determine the appropriate percentage of affordable housing overall; the type (tenure, size mix) of affordable housing sought; and whether provided onsite, offsite or as a commuted sum payment. The council particularly welcomes 100% affordable housing schemes delivered by RPs.

Financial viability

Applications for development which do not comply with Policy CP20 affordable housing requirements for reasons of financial viability and will not provide the appropriate percentage of affordable housing overall must be supported by a detailed [viability assessment](#) submitted alongside the planning application. The submitted viability assessment will be made publicly available in the same manner as the other documents that form part of the planning application submission.

The council will commission an independent review of the viability assessment provided and consider whether the approach adopted, and the inputs applied are appropriate and adequately justified by evidence. Specialist advice will be sought from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), or other external consultants, who will apply standard valuation procedures from the [Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors \(RICS\) 'Red Book'](#) and the applicant will be required to pay the costs of this process.

It should be noted that any affordable housing provided in excess of viable numbers according to the viability assessment or CP20 on a site will be supported by the council and may also be eligible for Homes England grant funding. This is referred to as additionality.

Review mechanism/claw back

A review mechanism (or re-appraisal of scheme viability) will be incorporated into the Section 106 agreement to ensure that any future uplift in development value is shared with the council in the form of an improved affordable housing contribution up to a policy compliant level.

The Section 106 agreement will specify the details of the review mechanism, setting out clear, simple triggers for any viability review. These may include:

- where there is a significant delay in starting on site

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- commencement of phases for large sites
 - on submission of reserved matters application(s)
 - at a specified point prior to the completion of the development

A review will also be required if an applicant or developer seeks to reduce the provision of affordable housing on the basis of updated viability information after the grant of planning permission. In such cases, it will be necessary to amend the Section 106 agreement to reflect any review findings. A review/claw back mechanism will not be required for 100% affordable housing sites developed by RPs.

Means of delivery

Onsite provision of affordable housing remains the council's top priority. Other than the policy requirements for smaller sites (5-14 units) as set out in Policy CP20, offsite provision of affordable housing on an alternative site or by way of a financial payment in lieu (or commuted sum) will only be sought after full investigation of all onsite options.

For sites of 15 or more units, there will need to be good planning or housing reasons to accept offsite provision or a commuted payment in lieu. Such justification will need to be clearly evidenced, as the general presumption will remain for onsite provision. This is a matter for the developer to demonstrate and for the council to consider and agree. Neither offsite provision nor commuted payments will be a less expensive option than onsite provision but will be equitable.

Affordable housing to rent should be delivered through a Registered Provider – who may be for profit or not-for-profit - or through acquisition by the council. A schedule of partner Registered Providers is attached for reference in Appendix 3, but this list is not exclusive. A clearing service for S106 sites is now available through Homes England to assist developers to identify Registered Provider partners. [The Section 106 Affordable Housing Clearing Service - GOV.UK](#).

Developers should engage with affordable housing providers prior to submitting a planning application and the expectation is that an affordable housing provider has been confirmed by the time planning permission is granted. The affordable housing value used in viability assessment should reflect offers from, or discussions with a Registered Provider but where this has not been possible at application stage, the review mechanism will address actual values. Financial viability does not determine whether provision will be on or offsite, but the following factors may justify offsite provision or payment in lieu:

- Where Registered Provider partners determine it is not practical from a management perspective to provide and manage a small number of onsite affordable housing units.
- Where there are high housing costs for occupiers associated with the development. For example, in expensive flatted developments such as conversions of listed buildings leading to high service/ maintenance charges

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and where this cannot be satisfactorily overcome or avoided by alternative design, massing or separate new build for the affordable housing.

- Where mixed community objectives/housing priorities could be better met in an alternative location. For example, where family sized (3+ bedroom, outdoor space) housing cannot easily be provided on the development site itself or where there is already a concentration of social housing in an area, it may be preferable to seek offsite provision or a commuted sum to fund affordable housing elsewhere.

Where the provision of onsite affordable housing delivery is proven not to be viable or deliverable as set out above, the council will consider the following options in the order shown below:

1. Council purchase of the affordable homes for rent, subject to assessment and viability.
2. Provision of a financial payment in lieu (commuted sum) for all or part of the affordable housing element as laid out in the council's [Developer Contributions Technical Guidance](#) and [Current valuations for commuted sums](#). This will be used to fund affordable housing for rent in the city in the following ways:
 - a. To contribute to the costs of building new affordable housing
 - b. To contribute to the costs of area regeneration in connection with council owned land that will provide new affordable housing
 - c. To contribute to the costs of purchasing land or properties for use as affordable housing
3. Provision on an alternative development site e.g., where a private developer can 'pair' up development sites. Provision of affordable housing on an alternative development site will be in addition to any requirement arising from the development of the alternative site itself. Where an alternative site is insufficient in area to accommodate all the affordable housing requirement then financial contributions to remedy the shortfall will be sought.

Appendix 1: NPPF Definitions of Affordable Housing, Build to Rent, Self-build and custom-build housing

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) defines affordable housing as housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the definitions:

- a) **Social Rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent; (b) the landlord is a registered provider; and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

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b) **Other affordable housing for rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).

c) **Discounted market sales housing** is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.

d) **Other affordable routes to home ownership** includes housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low-cost homes for sale (at price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

Build to Rent is defined as 'Purpose built housing that is typically 100% rented out. It can form part of a wider multi-tenure development comprising either flats or houses but should be on the same site and/or contiguous with the main development. Schemes will usually offer longer tenancy agreements of three years or more, and will typically be professionally managed stock in single ownership and management control'.

Self-build and custom-build housing is defined as 'Housing built by an individual, a group of individuals, or persons working with or for them, to be occupied by that individual. Such housing can be either market or affordable housing. A legal definition, for the purpose of applying the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 (as amended), is contained in section 1(A1) and (A2) of that Act'.

Appendix 2: City Plan Part 1 Planning Policies relevant to affordable housing delivery

The [Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 1 \(CPP1\)](#) was adopted in March 2016 and sets out strategic council planning policies. The main, non-site specific policies for affordable housing are:

Policy CP20 - Affordable Housing

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Policy CP20 Affordable Housing requires the provision of affordable housing on all sites of 5 or more of all types of residential development and sets out the following housing targets:

- a) 40% onsite affordable housing provision on sites of 15 or more (net) dwellings;
- b) 30% onsite affordable housing provision on sites of between 10 and 14 (net) dwellings or as an equivalent financial contribution;
- c) 20% affordable housing as an equivalent financial contribution on sites of between 5 and 9 (net) dwellings.

Policy CP7 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions

Policy CP7 requires appropriate provision of social, environmental and physical infrastructure. Sets out the use of s106 Planning Obligations via a legal agreement alongside the statutory tests.

Policy SA6 Sustainable Neighbourhoods requires the delivery of balanced communities through the requirement for an appropriate amount of affordable housing, mix of dwelling sizes and tenure types throughout the city.

Policy CP19 Housing Mix requires proposals to have regard to housing mix considerations and informed by local assessments of housing demand and need.

BHCC City Plan Part 2, Development Planning Policies relevant to affordable housing delivery

The [Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2 \(CPP2\)](#) was adopted in October 2022 and supports the implementation and delivery of the City Plan Part 1 by setting out a detailed policy framework to assist in the determination of planning applications through 58 policies which provide detailed development management guidance.

The relevant policies within CPP2 for affordable housing delivery are:

Policy DM1 – Housing Quality, Choice and Mix

Policy DM1 Housing Quality, Choice and Mix requires that proposals for new residential development a) incorporate a range of dwelling types, tenures and sizes that reflect and

respond to the city's identified housing needs; and b) make provision for a range and mix of housing /accommodation formats subject to the character, location and context of the site.

The policy also requires new residential development (including residential extensions and residential accommodation falling outside Use Class C3) to comply with residential space and accessibility standards and provide private outdoor amenity space appropriate to the scale and character of the development.

Policy DM44 – Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Policy DM44 requires stringent standards to meet the council's objective of carbon neutrality by 2030 and extending eco-friendly standards to all development.

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Policy DM4 – Housing and Accommodation for Older Persons

Policy DM4 sets out the council's approach to the provision of accommodation designed to meet the needs of the older population in the city as outlined in the [Older People's Housing Needs Assessment 2019](#).

The council will seek to ensure there is a sufficient supply and range of housing and accommodation suitable for older people and, in accordance with City Plan Part One Policy CP20 Affordable Housing, the council will seek an element of affordable housing provision for older persons as part of appropriate market-led developments for older people.

Policy DM5 - Supported Accommodation (Specialist and Vulnerable Needs)

Policy DM5 aims to provide a policy framework to support the delivery of good quality, suitably designed supported accommodation that meets the needs of the city's residents and also to protect against the loss of good quality supported accommodation where it still meets local needs.

The need for different types of supported accommodation is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis through the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessments 2022](#) (JSNA) which is prepared by the Council in liaison with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other health and care providers in the city.

Policy DM6 – Build to Rent Housing

Policy DM6 in CPP2 sets out the council's approach to the provision of affordable housing within build to rent developments. The policy draws on evidence from the [Brighton & Hove CC Build to Rent Study 2019](#) which assessed the viability of build to rent development in the city and its potential to deliver affordable housing that meets identified local needs.

The policy outlines how developers of build to rent schemes will be required to provide private affordable rented (discounted market rent) units on site integrated within the development. As set out in the policy, the council will negotiate with the build to rent developer to:

- seek provision of up to 20% affordable housing at genuinely affordable rents to be agreed with the council¹, taking account of the overall viability of the proposed development and subject to consideration of criteria i. to v. in Policy CP20. Genuinely affordable rents are generally deemed to be those set no higher than the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Housing Benefit limit (including service charges).
- agree eligibility criteria for the occupants of the affordable homes to be included in the Section 106 agreement
- agree the size mix of affordable housing units
- ensure that the affordable homes are secured in perpetuity through the inclusion within the Section 106 agreement of a 'clawback' arrangement in the event of affordable units being sold or taken out of the build to rent sector. This could be achieved through the alternative provision of other affordable

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housing or a financial contribution equivalent to the value of the affordable housing lost as a result of the sale/conversion of the build to rent scheme.

As set out in the supporting text to Policy DM6, the council will require build to rent scheme operators to produce an annual statement confirming the approach to letting the units, rent charged, ongoing status and clearly identifying how the affordable housing provision specified in the planning permission is being met.

Planning Practice Guidance indicates that both the proportion of affordable private rent units, and the discount offered on them can be varied across a development, over time. Provision for this will be addressed through viability review mechanisms and will be set out in Section 106 agreements.

Policy DM6 also sets out other general policy requirements for build to rent schemes, including that the homes are held as build to rent under a covenant for at least 15 years; that the build to rent housing is under unified ownership and will be subject to common management; and that the development will offer tenancies of at least 3 years available to all tenants with defined in-tenancy rent reviews.

Appendix 3: Preferred partners for the provision of new affordable housing

The council is not able to prescribe which Registered Provider (RP) [or provider of low-cost ownership homes] a developer chooses to work with but does have an established working relationship with a number of RPs through the Affordable Housing Delivery Partnership (AHDP) which includes RPs with a proven record of developing in the city.

These Registered Provider partners are committed to adhering to the requirements of the council's Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note, meet the standards expected and actively contribute to the council's strategic housing objectives. As such, the council would expect developers to consider these partners when seeking to meet their affordable housing obligation. The council is also a

Provider and will look at affordable homes available through a S106 Agreement or otherwise.

In addition to these established RPs there are several other RPs currently actively developing in the city. Details of AHDP members and current RP developers are shown below:

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Hyde Housing
- Clarion Housing
- Southern Housing Guinness Housing
- Guinness Housing Trust
- Registered Providers currently actively working in the city including:
- Stonewater Housing

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- Legal & General Housing Association

The council understands that other organisations may be interested in providing affordable housing in the city and may be brought forward by developers. Any such partner will be expected to meet the standards required by the council as well as any requirements outlined within planning agreements for affordable homes.

Affordable rented housing providers need to be registered with Homes England as a Registered Provider and provide details of local management arrangements. Registered Providers are subject to regulatory standards as contained in the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 and are expected to adhere to these standards. The council will check the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) register to ensure there are no concerns regarding any proposed partner.

First Homes will be marketed directly by the developer but if other low-cost ownership properties are proposed a formally established company and an established track record will be considered essential. The council will also consider the proposed costs to purchasers.

Whichever provider is chosen, it is advisable for the developer to involve them at the earliest opportunity, ideally before the design stage. Early consultation with an RP partner allows for the early incorporation of their standards and design brief in Affordable Housing designs.

Developers' delivery partners, whether a RP or other provider/manager, and First Homes sales and resales will be similarly monitored in relation to specific sites through the obligations contained in legal agreements.

Appendix 2

Consultation replies and BHCC Council Resp on the draft Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note

Introduction

A four-week focused informal consultation with external housing providers, developers, local agents and relevant Council officers was undertaken by council officers between 11 November and 10 December 2025.

Methodology

A copy of the draft PAN was circulated and comments invited from:

Registered Providers active in the Brighton & Hove area;

Local planning agents (through the Planning Agents Forum);

Developers and Consultants who subscribe to the Planning Policy mailing list;

Officers in the Planning Development Management team and Place Regeneration team (Housing Supply)

Member liaison and engagement was carried out through the Planning Policy Members Advisory Working Group

Table 1 General Comment Summary and BHCC Response

Respondent	General Comment Summary	BHCC Response
Registered Providers active in the Brighton & Hove area		
The Guinness Partnership (TGP)	<p>The Guinness Partnership (TGP) strongly supports Brighton & Hove City Council’s Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note.</p> <p>TGP recognises the urgent need for affordable housing in this area and the role registered providers (RPs) and the Council must play to deliver affordable homes.</p> <p>TGP endorses the Councils support of sites delivering 100% affordable homes and additionality on development sites.</p> <p>TGP supports the thresholds for affordable homes set out in Policy CP20.</p> <p>TGP understands the need for affordable rent and family homes in the local area, but suggests flexibility in both tenure and mix should be explored to make sure affordable housing is delivered.</p>	<p>Support welcomed and representation noted.</p> <p>The draft PAN is guidance and sets out that the council ‘will normally seek’ 100% AH to rent. There remains flexibility through existing planning policy at the local level.</p>
Developers and Consultants		
Enplan	<p>Strongly urges the Council to reconsider the approach currently set out in the draft PAN. Understands that S106 affordable housing delivery is seriously impacting affordable (and market) housing provision across the country. Points out that the Mayor of London has recently agreed to a reduction in affordable housing in order to stimulate housing across the capital. Does not support reducing the viability of affordable housing.</p> <p>Acknowledges that the need for affordable rented units in the city is high and that the Council will need to find ways to deliver this. Current policy allows for a mix of intermediate units (such as shared ownerships) within the overall affordable provision, necessary for the viability of schemes providing 40% affordable units in new development.</p>	<p>Representation noted</p> <p>The draft PAN is based on the recommendations of the BHCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment.</p> <p>The draft PAN sets out that the council ‘will normally seek’ 100% AH to rent. There is flexibility at the site level to</p>

	<p>Considers that seeking 100% social/affordable housing will negatively impact on the viability of new development proposals. Risk that developers' viability assessments will find this level of provision financially unviable, resulting in fewer affordable units overall. Preferable options would be to deliver more rented affordable accommodation by lowering the overall requirement for affordable housing from 40% to 35% or 30% and require all or the majority of that to be affordable rented. Enplan appreciates that this would require an amendment to the policy and this would not be possible as part of the current PAN; but may be an option for the future in updates to the City Plan.</p>	<p>ensure development still come forward.</p> <p>As acknowledged, changes to Affordable Housing Policy will come through the City Plan review. This review will be based on evidence and be subject to consultation and examination.</p>
<p>St Congar, Promoters of Toad's Hole Valley.</p>	<p>Deliverability of affordable housing is currently an issue. The Housebuilders Federation (July 2025) identified 117,000 homes are blocked or delayed from coming forward due to lack of bids from Registered Providers for S106 AH. The Mayor of London has recently reduced affordable housing requirements in order to stimulate housing delivery across the capital.</p> <p>City Plan Part 1 policy CP20 allows a flexible approach in the light of viability evidence. Moving away from this is not compatible with the NPPF and would not support the council's housing land supply position. Concerned that this is a policy change without viability evidence or Public Examination. A cascade mechanism should be included with the PAN. The draft PAN will need to be reviewed in the light of the Dec 2025 NPPF.</p>	<p>Representation noted.</p> <p>The PAN will replace existing guidance in the Affordable Housing Brief 2021 and does not change policy. The draft PAN is based on the NPPF 2024 and the BHCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The draft PAN sets out the council 'will normally seek' 100% AH to rent. There remains flexibility at the site level.</p>
<p>Planning Agent's Forum</p>		
<p>Lewis and Co</p>	<p>BHCC should provide evidence if continuing to use a 5-dwelling threshold for affordable housing provision, as this conflicts with national policy. A 5 unit threshold also causes issues with housing supply as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developers will seek 4 units not 5; 	<p>Representation noted.</p> <p>All thresholds in CPP1 policy CP20 were examined and adopted through the relevant</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This causes viability issues for residential schemes between 5 and 9 units; • consulting the District Valuer and /or preparing a s 106 agreement substantially delays the planning application process on small to medium sites identified by government as making an important contribution to meeting housing requirements, and which are often built out quickly <p>A planning appeal decision for application BH2023/02159 has been submitted to evidence this response.</p>	<p>development plan processes and regulations.</p> <p>Any changes to an Affordable Housing Policy will come through the City Plan review. This review will be based on evidence and is subject to consultation and examination.</p>
Internal comments		
BHCC Regeneration Team	Considered to be a good approach	Support welcomed and representation noted

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 154

Subject: Annual Procurement Forward Plan

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

Lead Officer: Director Property & Finance

Contact Officer: Jason Duncombe

Email: jason.duncombe@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Is a Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Procurement Act 2023 (the Act) came into effect on 24 February 2025. The Act simplifies the procurement process and provides benefits to prospective suppliers of all sizes, with particular emphasis on small businesses, start-ups, and social enterprises. One of its key requirements is the mandatory obligation to publish a procurement project pipeline, thereby enhancing visibility of upcoming projects.
- 1.2 This report presents a Procurement Forward Plan for approval, detailing known procurement projects with a spend exceeding £1 million in the year 2026/27.
- 1.3 The Procurement Forward Plan aligns with the Council's strategic priority to operate as a responsive authority providing efficiently managed services. The Council is committed to establishing clear processes that support sound governance, collaborative working, and integrated service delivery. The publication of the Procurement Forward Plan enables Members to maintain oversight during the early stages of planned procurement projects and ensure that all relevant stakeholders are kept informed of upcoming procurement activities.
- 1.4 A primary strategic objective for the Council is to consolidate contracts. This approach will underpin our initiatives to realise cost savings through procurement activities, in accordance with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Consequently, all procurement processes will be focused on

delivering both cost savings and value for money. Additionally, we have initiated transformational programme work to better manage third-party expenditure and to enhance our contracting and commercial capabilities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees the Procurement Forward Plan for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 1.

3. Context and background information

Context of the legislative changes

- 3.1 The Procurement Act 2023, which came into effect in February 2025, represents the most substantial revision to procurement legislation in recent years. The amendments to the regulations governing how public organisations procure works, goods, and services are significant.
- 3.2 The legislation aims to enhance and simplify procurement procedures, thereby benefiting prospective suppliers of all sizes, with particular emphasis on small businesses, start-ups, and social enterprises. Key advantages for suppliers include increased transparency, reduced barriers to public procurement, and greater standardisation and efficiency in procurement processes.
- 3.3 In response to the changes in procurement legislation, Brighton & Hove City Council's Contract Standing Orders have been reviewed, revised, and approved by the full Council in February 2025.
- 3.4 The revised Contract Standing Orders specify that, to facilitate the Council's effective oversight of procurement activities across all service areas, the Director of Property and Finance is tasked with developing a Procurement Forward Plan. This is a detailed 12-month plan that identifies, for each directorate, all contracts valued at over £1 million that are scheduled for renewal, replacement, or new procurement in the forthcoming financial year.
- 3.5 The Procurement Forward Plan enables more proactive and strategic decision making and allows for more corporate oversight, by giving earlier sight of projects and the opportunity for the relevant lead Cabinet Member to receive greater levels of input and information about projects as they progress.

Transparency requirements

- 3.6 Transparency requirements are a key feature of the new legislation. Any contracting authority that intends to spend more than £100 million on goods services or works contracts in the coming fiscal year must publish details of all procurements expected to be made in the next 18 months valued at £2 million or more.

- 3.7 The Council is required to include in the published information the details of all individual procurements each year, within 56 days of the first day of the relevant financial year.
- 3.8 For Brighton & Hove City Council, it is proposed to electively publish all contracts over £1 million for a 24-month period to fit with the 'key' decision-making process and financial planning cycle. The information will be published on the Central Digital Platform, which is a central location provided by central government for this purpose
- 3.9 This increased visibility benefits small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) as it provides them with time to plan for future work, promoting a competitive and diverse market.

Proposed approach

- 3.10 To support this process, the Procurement Forward Plan has been prepared for the fiscal year 2026/27 which includes all proposed procurement projects that are valued at over £1million.
- 3.11 Projects featured will also have work that starts within the financial year (the contract may start later, but the work on it would be required to start within the financial year).
- 3.12 The Procurement Forward Plan includes projects that are either new projects or re-procurements (contract extensions that have already received delegated authority to proceed via their original Cabinet route are not included).
- 3.13 The following information is included for each project in the Forward Plan:
- Contract Name
 - Contract Description
 - Anticipated aggregate contract value across duration of the contract
 - Indicative contract length (including extensions)
 - Indicative route to market
 - Start date of new contract
 - Additional information
 - Whether the project information should be omitted from public report
 - The relevant council plan outcomes which relate to the project.

3.14 Summary of Procurements with a value over £1m – 2026/27

Directorate	Number of Procurements	Total Value	Summary of Key Areas
City Operations	9	£70,672, 982	Strategic Energy Partnership, EV

			charging points, Bike hire scheme,
Homes and Adult Social Care	30	£223,690,000	Money Management Advice, Disability Adaptations, reactive and planned maintenance of council housing, construction of affordable homes, and Temporary Accommodation.
Families, Children and Wellbeing	3	£54,004,700	Drug and Alcohol Recovery, Skills bootcamp, Youth Service Scheme
Central Services, People & Innovation	4	£63,709,043	Temporary Agency worker service provider contract, corporate security services. Corporate cleaning contract – office, schools , mixed building, Electrical & mechanical maintenance and certification
Central Services, Property & Finance	3	£41,230,000	Banking Services, Parking Enforcement Services, Insurance renewal – property, assets, motor,

- 3.15 Each of the Cabinet Members is briefed in advance by the relevant Directorate on the projects within their respective areas of responsibility to allow them a full picture of the year ahead.
- 3.16 Cabinet Members, in consultation with the Corporate Director, indicate how much input they will require during the project. This may be that they propose the approval of the project is reserved to Cabinet for decision or that they request additional oversight before the project proceeds.
- 3.17 For each project on the Procurement Forward Plan there is a choice of four options:

- (i) The project can proceed to market, and the resultant contract can be awarded with no further delegated authority required from Cabinet. The Corporate Director will receive briefings from the Service and will brief the relevant member as appropriate.
 - (ii) The project can proceed to market without any further delegated authority from Cabinet, but the lead Cabinet Member will receive regular briefings from the service throughout the process. No authority is required from Cabinet in order to award the contract.
 - (iii) The Cabinet Member requires a review of the strategy and outcomes before the project proceeds to market. No further delegated authority is required from Cabinet in order to award the contract.
 - (iv) Before proceeding to market the project has to come to Cabinet with a full report including strategy, risks, VfM, outcomes and benefits.
- 3.18 These options offer a range of approaches for ongoing oversight by Cabinet Members, depending on factors such as the level of risk or the significance of the contract in relation to the Council Plan objectives.
- 3.19 This approach for giving delegated authority through the Procurement Forward Plan is recommended rather than using a case-by-case approach because it will give Cabinet Members a significant amount of oversight into the pipeline of work and allow proportionate input relative to the project.

New projects throughout the financial year

- 3.20 Once sign-off for the Procurement Forward Plan has been received, the projects will proceed as outlined above.
- 3.21 Should any new projects be identified with a value of in excess of £1million after the Procurement Forward Plan has been approved, these will need to come to Cabinet individually for delegated authority to be granted via an Approval to Procure process.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The requirement to publish a pipeline procurement document is mandatory under the new Procurement Act 2023.
- 4.2 This provides the Council with an opportunity to evaluate how to optimally utilise this change to effectively support the council's strategic objectives, whilst ensuring proportionate oversight across the extensive procurement project portfolio. Options for consideration are:

Option 1 – Adopt the proposal for a Procurement Forward Plan as set out in the report

- 4.3 The recommendation in this report to delegate authority for procurements exceeding £1 million, subject to consideration of the Procurement Forward Plan, is advised as it allows Cabinet to maintain oversight of high-value procurements at an early stage. This approach enables timely input from members at an earlier point in the process and offers flexible options for ongoing engagement from members throughout the procurement procedure.

Option 2 – Continue to seek Cabinet approval on a project-by-project basis for all procurements over £1million

- 4.4 An alternative approach could involve requiring all individual procurements exceeding £1 million to be reported to the Cabinet on a case-by-case basis for delegated authority to proceed. However, this is not advisable, as it would be a less efficient method and could considerably impede the progress and effectiveness of procurement projects and oversight.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 During the iterative development of the Procurement Forward Plan, internal consultation has been carried out. The emphasis on internal briefings is because this is a corporate initiative rather than a public-facing change. Consequently, the Community Engagement Framework has not been employed in this process.
- 5.2 A series of briefings have taken place including CLT, DMTs across the Council and individual briefings about the process with the Cabinet Advisor for Contract Management and Procurement regarding the procurement forward plan. As this process is now business as usual (BAU), the ongoing consultation will continue across Directorates.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The council commissions goods and services externally, with an annual value exceeding £300 million, and the Procurement Forward Plan appended as Appendix 1 is requesting approval to enter into contracts with total value of more than £400m over the life of those projects listed. It is therefore essential to have robust decision-making procedures and effective oversight of procurement projects to ensure compliance with legal requirements and procurement regulations. This helps to prevent anti-competitive behaviour, mitigate the risk of litigation, and avoid potential penalties. It also enables the council to meet its Best Value duty by conducting competitive procurement processes that deliver value for money, while also considering other important factors such as quality, social value, and environmental sustainability.
- 6.2 Corporate Directors are responsible for ensuring procurement activity is undertaken within the council's existing budget envelope and decisions are made in line with the council's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which establish additional internal controls and clarify officers' responsibilities and delegated authority limits.

Finance officer consulted: Haley Woollard Date: 25/02/26

7. Legal implications

The proposed adoption of the Procurement Forward Plan aligns with the transparency requirements outlined in the Procurement Act 2023. All procurement activities undertaken by the Council must continue to adhere to the Council's Contract Standing Orders and applicable procurement legislation. The adoption of the Procurement Forward Plan does not supersede these obligations; rather, it should be viewed as a complement, ensuring that each procurement process is carried out in accordance with legislation and the Council's internal Contract Standing Orders on a case-by-case basis.

Lawyer consulted: Siobhan Fry

Date consulted: 02/03/26

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 While the visibility of the Procurement Forward Plan does not directly imply equalities considerations, increased transparency regarding future projects provides the authority with a heightened opportunity to evaluate the equalities implications of each individual project within the plan.

9. Sustainability implications

- 9.1 Whilst the visibility of the Procurement Forward Plan does not directly impact sustainability, increased transparency regarding future projects provides the authority with a better opportunity to evaluate the sustainability considerations of each individual project within the plan.

10. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 10.1 There are unlikely to be any health and wellbeing implications from the introduction of the forward plan process.

Other Implications

11. Procurement implications

- 11.1 The Cabinet Adviser for Contract Management and Procurement and the Lead Cabinet Member have been involved in the production of the forward plan.
- 11.2 Social value considerations will be considered as part of the individual projects on the plan.

12. Conclusion

- 13.1 In conclusion, it is recommended that Cabinet approve the Procurement Forward Plan for the financial year 2026/27 in accordance with the requirements of the Procurement Act, thereby supporting the Council's objective of being a responsive authority with efficiently managed services.

13.2 Decisions regarding updates to specific projects will be implemented in accordance with the details outlined in the report.

13.3 Summary of Procurements with a value of over £1m - 2026/2027

Supporting Documentation

Appendix 1: Annual Procurement Forward Plan Template 2026-27

Contract Name	Contract Description (up to 250 characters)	Anticipated aggregate contract value across duration of contract	Indicative Contract Length in months (including extensions)	Start date of new contract(s) (enter as dd/mm/yy)	Additional Information	Cabinet report Part 1 or Part 2 (Part 2 omitted from public report)	1. The project can proceed to market, and the resultant contract can be awarded with no further delegated authority required. The Corporate Director will receive briefings from the Service and will brief the relevant member as appropriate	2. The project can proceed to market without any further delegated authority, but the lead Cabinet Member will receive regular briefings from the service throughout the process. No authority is required from Cabinet in order to award the contract.	3. The Cabinet Member requires a review of the strategy and outcomes before the project proceeds to market. No further delegated authority is required from Cabinet in order to award the contract.	4. Before proceeding to market the project has to come to Cabinet with a full report including strategy, risks, VfM, outcomes and benefits.
Brighton and Hove City Electric bike and manual cycle, bike scheme	Brighton and Hove City Electric bike and manual cycle, bike scheme	£14,000,000	48	30/08/2027	Bike share scheme framework agreement which will allow the expansion of the current Brighton & Hove scheme to a city-wide scheme and allow other authorities in the South East to establish their own schemes, a mixed fleet of electric pedal assist bikes and pedal only bikes.	Part 1		yes		
Insurance Renewals	The renewal of our Insurance policies for Property, Assets, Motor, Liabilities and other insured areas including Broker contract - value lies with insurance policies, not broker's contract.	£23m-£25m	84	1st April 2027	Route to market and contract term may be reviewed pending LGR outcomes and Orbis Insurance confirmation	Part 1		yes		
Corporate Enforcement Services	Corporate Enforcement Services Parking and Revenue Sundry - 6 concession contracts currently	TBC £15M+	48	01/08/2027	One more extension available to 31/07/27 - Concession contracts - The value of the Parking contract is £17,032,020 and the WRBS contract is £5,196,530. These figures are based upon the amount of cases we have referred for 23-24 and 24-25 multiplied the by the maximum amount of costs that the enforcement agents could charge and if they were to recover all of those costs. These are concession contracts so there is no cost to the Council. These numbers are purely based upon what the enforcement agents could make from the contracts over a two year period.	Part 1		yes		
BHCC Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources	Managed Service Provider to supply and manage the effective provision of Temporary Agency Workers across the Council	£42,000,000	72	30/09/2027	Please confirm value as per estimated future spend	Part 1	yes			
Corporate Cleaning services	• Lot 1 - Office Buildings & The Brighton Centre • Lot 2 - Schools • Lot 3 - Mixed Buildings.	£10,500,000	48	01/05/2028		Part 1	yes			
Brighton Centre ticketing 2027	Ticket sales management for the Brighton Centre	£7,455,000	84	01/08/2027	This is a concession contract / revenue generating (circa £1,065,000 per annum - £7,455,000 (5+2)	Part 1	yes			
Telephony and Contact Centre Solution	Telephony and Contact Centre Solution - currently 4net - option to extend to 10/2031	1,717,932.45	48	31/10/2027	Currently last contract figure - please check actual spend and update	Part 1	yes			
Banking Services - Merchant Acquiring Services	Currently Lloyds	£1,230,000	48	31/03/2027	Currently last contract figure - please check actual spend and update	Part 1	yes			
Rapid Application Development Platform	Mendix Rapid Application Development Platform - option to extend to 10.27	£1,000,050	36	30/09/2026	Currently last contract figure - please check actual spend and update	Part 1	yes			
Penalty Charge Notices processing Software	Software for Processing Penalty Charge Notices	£3,000,000	24	01/05/2026	Currently last contract figure - please check actual spend and update - current provider Taranto	Part 1	yes			
Drug and Alcohol	Integrated drug and alcohol community recovery service, including short term in-patient detoxification stays, plus additional DATRIG funding	£50,837,500	84	01/04/2027	Contract now falls under PSR. Service is currently in two Lots, split across two providers plus sub contracts. . Budget will include a portion of DATRIG funding from central government	Part 1		yes		
Money Management and Advice	Money Management Support for Adults with Care Needs and Money Advice for Council Tenants and Leaseholders	£4,250,000	60	01/04/2027	Currently delivered across two lots, some of service based in council-owned building	Part 1	yes			
Youth Service Providers	Grant agreements for youth scheme provision across the city	£1,667,200	48	01/04/2027	Awarding of grants falls outside of Procurement Act 2023	Part 1	yes			
Skills Bootcamp	Skills Bootcamps to deliver skills training and upskilling leading to employment opportunities	£1,500,000	12	30/04/2026	We are seeking National Skills Bootcamps funding to deliver skills training and upskilling leading to employment opportunities with the majority focus on Digital Skills which is a key priority for Brighton & Hove. The contract will allow training providers to deliver short (up to 16 weeks) qualifications (level 2 to level 7) linked to employers in the city with job interviews and employment opportunities as the outcome measure.	Part 1		yes		
CCTV supply and Maintenance	Supply and Maintenance of CCTV hardware and associated software to enable monitoring of all corporate CCTV from the CCTV Control Centre	£8,000,000	60	01/04/2027	This projects seeks to consolidate all CCTV contracts at the Council under 1 contract (currently 10 identified + more) - FH: Double checking Value with Julie S	Part 1	yes			
Paid Parking Software and Hardware	Paid Parking contract covering carparks payment hardware & software, onstreet app payment, and paid parking machines payment hardware & software)	£14,000,000	96	01/09/2027	One contract with a number of Lots - 8 months mobilisation	Part 1	yes			
Mechanical Maintenance	Provision of Statutory gas certification, F Gas regulation, SFG 20 specification maintenance and manufacturers specifications to maintain mechanical equipment. Cover all sites for reactive breakdowns and remedial works.	£5,316,923	84	01/09/2027	There are approximately 500 properties of differing sizes and uses covered by this JCT MTC form of contract. These range from civic buildings, office buildings, hostels, schools, social care residences, day centres, public toilets, sports pavilions and leased commercial buildings. A Term Agreement by direct employees and sub-contracted specialist companies.	Part 1	yes			
Electrical Maintenance	Provision of electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR), Statutory lightning conductor maintenance, statutory emergency light and fire alarm maintenance. Cover all sites for reactive breakdowns and remedial repairs.	£5,892,120	84	01/09/2027	There are approximately 500 properties of differing sizes and uses covered by this JCT MTC form of contract. These range from civic buildings, office buildings, hostels, schools, social care residences, day centres, public toilets, sports pavilions and leased commercial buildings. The types of work that the Contractor will be required to provide under the Term Agreement by direct employees.	Part 1	yes			

Depot EV upgrades	Installation of new substation and infrastructure for 54 new EV charging points at Hollingdean Depot	£1,500,000	12	TBC (expected March 27)	Pending award of approx. £1 million government grant	Part 1		yes		
Strategic Energy Partnership	A strategic energy partnership with the private sector, to deliver energy system decarbonisation projects across the city.	£10's of millions (£20m?)	180	01/09/2027	Proposed procurement will be refined following Preliminary Market Engagement in Spring 2026 (Cllr Robinson was briefed 02/09/25 and Informal Cabinet was briefed 18/09/25. Next briefing anticipated after preliminary Market engagement, May 2026)	Part 1			yes	
Housing Adaptations Framework	Framework Agreement for the provision of Housing Adaptations for Disabled People in Council Properties and Private Sector Dwellings	£13,200,000	48	01/06/2027		Part 1	yes			
MH Floating Support Service	Floating support service to the users of the housing portfolio	£3,000,000	48	31/03/2026		Part 1	yes			
Asbestos - Corporate & Housing	Asbestos - Corporate & Housing. Joint contract between Housing and Property. Covering both inspections and removal.	£5,000,000	48	01/10/2026	This is a joint project between Housing and Property	Part 1	yes			
New affordable housing scheme at Slipper Baths	Conversion works at the Slipper Baths to provide new affordable homes	£2,500,000	Works	01/08/2026		Part 1		yes		
New affordable housing scheme at Cowley Drive	Construction of new affordable homes. Cowley Drive	£1,200,000	Works	01/08/2026		Part 1		yes		
New affordable housing scheme at former Toby Inn Site	Construction of new affordable homes. Former Toby Inn Site	£2,700,000	Works	01/08/2026		Part 1		yes		
External Repairs to medium rise block at Mayflower Square residential blocks	These are essential works required to the block to bring into a good state of repair.	£1,000,000	Works	01/01/2027	These are essential works required to the block to bring into a good state of repair. The blocks are suffering from structural defects. The works will be to the external facades to include brickwork repairs, cavity wall insulation, concrete repairs, new windows and fire safety related works The works will enhance thermal benefits also. For residents. Mayflower Square	Part 1	yes			
External Repairs to medium rise blocks at Milner Flats and Kingswood residential blocks	The works will be to replace roof covering and the external facades to include brickwork repairs, cavity wall insulation, concrete repairs, new windows and fire safety related works.	£5,000,000	Works	01/11/2026	Essential works required to the block to bring into a good state of repair. The blocks are suffering from structural defects. The works will be to replace roof covering and the external facades to include brickwork repairs, cavity wall insulation, concrete repairs, new windows and fire safety related works The works will enhance thermal benefits also for residents.	Part 1	yes			
Housing Temporary Accommodation Block Booked Contracts	Provision of both leasehold properties and the management of leasehold properties for Temporary Accommodation services	£60,000,000	48	01/06/2026	High Priority project following the Direct Award.	Part 1		yes		
Installation of Sprinkler Systems at LPS Blocks	Provision of Sprinkler Systems to Bird blocks (LPS) requirements as per ESFRS discussions	£1,750,000	12	01/07/2026		Part 1	yes			
Cavity Wall Insulation	Works for the installation and maintenance of cavity wall insulation	£3,750,000	60	01/07/2026		Part 1	yes			
Delivery of repairs service to support demand service completion	Delivery of repairs service to support demand service completion	£1,600,000	48	01/07/2026		Part 1	yes			
Albion Hill Low Rise Phase 2	Phase 2 of the Albion Hill project	£1,100,000	Works	01/07/2026		Part 1	yes			
Empty Homes (including kitchen & bathrooms)	Procurement of a contract for bringing empty homes back into use to include kitchen and bathroom works.	£35,000,000	60	01/10/2026		Part 1		yes		
External Works	External repairs to housing portfolio	£7,000,000	60	01/10/2026		Part 1	yes			
Internal Works (incl flooring & decorating)	Internal repairs and works to housing portfolio	£10,000,000	60	01/10/2026		Part 1	yes			
Planned kitchens & bathrooms	Replacement kitchens and bathrooms to the housing portfolio	£7,740,000	60	01/10/2026		Part 1	yes			
Roofing & scaffolding	Roofing & scaffolding works in the housing portfolio	£6,500,000	60	01/10/2026		Part 1	yes			
Window & door repairs - specialist and standard works	Window and Door replacement and repair services to the housing portfolio	£5,000,000	60	01/10/2026		Part 1	yes			
Electrical Rising & Lateral Mains	Works for the testing / inspection / installation of electrical risings and lateral mains in the housing portfolio.	£8,300,000	48	01/07/2026		Part 1	yes			
Communal Ventilation and Ductwork	Provision of communal ventilation and ductwork services for social housing, covering inspection, cleaning, maintenance and repairs. Ensures compliance with health and safety regulations and improves air quality in shared areas, and system upgrades to current standards.	£2,000,000	60	01/08/2026		Part 1	yes			
Housing bridging contract for fire safety equipment service, repair and maintenance	Provision of fire safety equipment servicing that ensures compliance with the fire safety regulations and maintains reliable life-safety measures in communal areas, includes routine inspections, testings, repairs and replacement of defective components.	£1,300,000	24	06/07/2026	Provision of fire safety equipment servicing and maintenance for social housing stock, including emergency lighting, AOVs, fire alarms, sprinklers and other related systems. It ensures compliance with the fire safety regulations and maintains reliable life-safety measures in communal areas, includes routine inspections, testings, repairs and replacement of defective components.	Part 1	yes			

Long term fire safety equipment servicing, repair and replacement	Provision of fire safety equipment servicing and maintenance for social housing stock, including emergency lighting, AOVs, fire alarms, sprinklers and other related systems.	£3,500,000	60	01/04/2028	Provision of fire safety equipment servicing and maintenance for social housing stock, including emergency lighting, AOVs, fire alarms, sprinklers and other related systems. It ensures compliance with the fire safety regulations and maintains reliable life-safety measures in communal areas, includes routine inspections, testings, repairs and replacement of defective components.	Part 1	yes			
Housing Asbestos monitoring, removals, risk assessments and emergency response.	Provision of asbestos management services for social housing, including surveys, samples, removal and encapsulation where required. Ensures compliance with control of asbestos regulations and maintains a safe living environment for residents.	£2,500,000	60	01/08/2026		Part 1	yes			
Water Mains & Specialist Plumbing Repairs	Each project is valued at roughly £300k per property, the service expects to undertake 2 per year for £600k.	£4,800,000	48	01/07/2026		Part 1	yes			
Carlton Court Homes Project	Part of the HAIM's Future Works Plan	£1,000,000	Works	01/08/2026		Part 1	yes			
Stanmer Heights Homes Project	Part of the HAIM's Future Works Plan	£1,000,000	Works	01/08/2026		Part 1	yes			
Wiltshire House Homes Project	Part of the HAIM's Future Works Plan	£7,000,000	Works	01/08/2026		Part 1	yes			
Swanborough Drive	Swanborough Drive got a Resolution to Grant Planning Permission (subject to s106) . It will deliver 36 homes and a community room, and is anticipated to cost circa £15m to build.	£15,000,000		31/07/2026	We have authority to get Planning Approval. We've carried out an SQ process and shortlisted 5x contractors, to whom we intend to tender the job. We'd ideally like to execute a contract in July, then make a physical Start in Site towards the end of this calendar year, start of the next. We have been reporting the project through TBM, so it should form part of the 'future sites' allocation in the HRA finance report.	Part 1		yes		

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 155

Subject: Large Panel Systems Building and Estates Renewal - Section 105, Rehousing Policy and Leaseholder Offer Consultation Programme

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Housing

Lead Officer: Corporate Director for Homes & Care

Contact Officer: Darren Levy

Email: Darren.levy@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All wards, with specific impact in Hollingdean & Fiveways, Kemptown, and Whitehawk & Marina

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the Report and Policy Context

1.1 This report follows Cabinet's decision in July 2025 to progress, in principle, with recommendations regarding the preferred option to regenerate all eight Large Panel System (LPS) buildings, inclusive of demolition of the existing blocks and creation of new housing on the sites. Cabinet also instructed officers at that time to undertake statutory and wider consultation on the proposed approach, including the development of a Rehousing Policy, Local Lettings Plan and leaseholder offer.

1.2 This report sets out the outcomes of the consultation undertaken in relation to St James's House (Kemptown); Nettleton Court and Dudeney Lodge (Hollingdean); and the Whitehawk "Bird Blocks": Falcon, Heron, Kestrel, Kingfisher, and Swallow Courts. The consultation covered:

- Section 105 (Housing Act 1985) requirements, leaseholders, temporary accommodation and private tenants in relation to the preferred options of demolition and regeneration.
- The Council's Rehousing Policy and draft Local Lettings Plan in accordance with the Council's Allocations Policy 2025 as it impacted upon all of the above stakeholders save for leaseholders.

- The Leaseholder Offer for impacted properties
- 1.3 During the consultation programme an additional initiative has been proposed to support Secure tenants who may want to exercise their Right to Buy and who would otherwise struggle to purchase in the open market instead.
- 1.4 This report accords with the Council Plan 2023 – 2027, specifically

Outcome 2: A Fair and Inclusive City

- *Homes for everyone*
 1. Improve housing quality
 2. Increase housing supply
- 2. Recommendations**
- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to note that each site has been subject to a distinct options appraisal and consultation process, and that the recommendations set out in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.4 constitute separate decisions for each site, presented collectively for ease of reference.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to note the outcomes of the consultation (Appendix 2) relating to the preferred option and to approve the taking forward of the recommended option to demolish and replace St James’s House (Kempton); Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge (Hollingdean); and Heron, Kestrel, Swallow, Falcon and Kingfisher Courts (collectively the Whitehawk ‘Bird Blocks’) with new homes in keeping with the housing needs of the city, and regeneration of the sites.
- 2.3 Cabinet agrees to authorise the service of “initial demolition notices” for St James’s House (Kempton); Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge (Hollingdean); and Heron, Kestrel, Swallow, Falcon and Kingfisher Courts (collectively the Whitehawk ‘Bird Blocks’) in accordance with Schedule 5A of the Housing Act 1985.
- 2.4 Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director Homes and Adult Social Care to determine the timing and service of the initial demolition notices for each site.
- 2.5 Cabinet is asked to note the outcome of the consultation (as detailed in this report) relating to the preferred option and agrees to approve the Rehousing Policy at Appendix 3 and Local Lettings Plan at Appendix 4 for the eight LPS blocks.
- 2.6 Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Homes and Adult Social Care to actively engage with all impacted leaseholders to

facilitate the acquisition of the leaseholders' legal interests within the 8 LPS blocks.

- 2.7 Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Homes and Adult Social Care to take all steps necessary to develop an offer for the provision of lease/property swaps for those resident leaseholders within the eight LPS Blocks who are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to purchase an alternative property on the open market.
- 2.8 Cabinet approves the launch of a pilot Home Ownership Pact Scheme for eligible tenants residing in the eight LPS blocks, as detailed in Section 8.
- 2.9 Cabinet agrees to approve a budget of £0.4m to operate the Pilot Home Ownership Pact scheme in 2026/27.

3 Context and Background Information

- 3.1 A programme of options appraisals of the Council's Large Panel Systems (LPS) blocks was initiated in November 2024, following structural surveys that identified structural and sustainability issues earlier that year. A range of mitigating measures were taken and are ongoing, to ensure the buildings remain safe to live in while the long-term future of the buildings is decided.
- 3.2 The outcomes of the options appraisals together with the associated recommendations and a summary of proposed mitigating actions, were presented to Cabinet on 17th July 2025 and are available for viewing within the background documents appended to this report.
- 3.3 The three options that were explored as part of the appraisals were: strengthening, strengthening and refurbishment, and demolition and regeneration.
- 3.4 Cabinet approved in principle recommendations regarding the preferred option to regenerate all eight LPS buildings, inclusive of demolition of the existing blocks and creation of new housing on the sites.
- 3.5 The options of 'strengthening' and 'strengthening and refurbishment' were discounted due to costs which are unviable for the Council alongside its other stock investment commitments, and secondly due to longevity. Any strengthening solution would require further review and possibly further strengthening work within a maximum of 20 years.
- 3.6 These decisions triggered consultation duties, including statutory consultation duties under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985.
- 3.7 Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 requires Councils to consult secure tenants on matters of housing management that substantially affect them, including proposals for demolition and regeneration. Given the significance of the decisions and in line with the principle of consultation, the Council also included existing Temporary Accommodation households, Seaside Homes households, leaseholders and private sector tenants of leaseholders, within

the consultation. Subject to Cabinet approving the recommendations outlined in Section 2 of this report, further and wider consultation will be carried out to cover the next stages of the projects as future development and demolition plans are finalised.

- 3.8 In carrying out the options appraisals, a further survey of the blocks was carried out by Ridge and Partners LLP. This is detailed in the 17th July 2025 Cabinet papers in Sections 3 and 4, which identified that the Council would need to carry out either strengthening works or vacate the buildings within a likely period of 5 years. The scale of works required to strengthen and refurbish the buildings would also likely require empty buildings should these options be progressed.
- 3.9 To facilitate a rehousing programme across the eight LPS blocks, at the 17th July 2025 meeting Cabinet approved recommendations for all LPS buildings, “for officers to develop and consult upon a Rehousing Policy and draft Local Lettings Plan which would apply to the permanent rehousing of all secure council tenants and those who are accommodated by the Council under a statutory duty and who are affected by the regeneration scheme”.... “and which incorporates the proposed tenant offer described in the report, including in relation to the priority of existing secure council tenants” “for allocation to the new housing on the site, in keeping with the intention to offer right to return”.
- 3.10 Following the report to Cabinet on 17th July 2025, three Resident Advisory Groups (RAGs) were established to represent each location where LPS constructed buildings are situated. Workshops were held with each of the Resident Advisory Groups (RAGs) to develop and co-design much of the consultation survey.
- 3.11 Given the consultation requirements outlined above in relation to consultation duties, the Rehousing policy and draft Local Lettings Plan, and the leaseholder offer, the Council initiated a programme of consultation with residents of the LPS buildings on 13th October 2025 which closed on 12th January 2026.
- 3.12 Given the potential impact of the draft Local Lettings Plan on many people on the housing register, a consultation exercise was also carried out with people on the wider housing register.
- 3.13 The consultation programme included an online YourVoice survey (a summary of responses is provided in Appendix 1 alongside a series of in-person engagement events. Full details of the consultation activities are set out in Section 4 of this report, with Sections 5 to 7 presenting the feedback received.
- 3.14 In addition, we have explored an option to introduce a pilot Home Ownership Pact Scheme for secure tenants living in the eight LPS blocks, enabling tenants to own homes in the private sector as an alternative to the Right to Buy (RTB). This is outlined in Section 8 of this report.

- 3.15 Feedback and views were also sought from People Overview and Scrutiny on 28th January 2026. Overview and Scrutiny highlighted several key themes:
- The need for the Council to maintain a strong focus on keeping residents regularly updated and ensuring clear and transparent communication remains a core priority of the programme.
 - The importance of continuing efforts to support vulnerable residents living in the blocks.
 - The need to provide specific support for residents of LPS buildings in relation to mental health and wellbeing.
 - The importance of making every effort to engage with residents who may not attend meetings or feel able to approach the Council for help or support.
- 3.16 These recommendations will feed directly into the implementation and programme planning for the long-term LPS programme of activity.
- 3.17 Seaside Homes were invited to provide a response to the consultation. They submitted a comprehensive response, provided in confidence, which will be considered as we plan the next phases of the programme.
- 3.18 Seaside Homes are leaseholders of 45 homes within the LPS buildings, currently used as Temporary Accommodation for households to whom the Council holds a Homelessness duty. All the individual households were included within the wider resident consultation. The Council will continue to engage with Seaside Homes as the programme develops.
- 3.19 Based on the feedback to the Consultation survey outlined in Appendix 2 and Section 5 below, this report recommends that Cabinet approves the taking forward of the recommended option to demolish and replace the eight LPS blocks on all three sites with new homes in keeping with the housing needs of the city, and regeneration of the sites. This will include the issuing of 'initial demolition notices' and will mean work will continue to progress on plans to provide new homes on each of the LPS sites.
- 3.20 We will progress with feasibility work and the development of design options to deliver new homes for residents, alongside assessing both in-house and alternative delivery vehicle approaches to ensure viable schemes. This work will incorporate the consultation feedback received for each site. For Whitehawk, the masterplan is progressing and the required procurement processes are scheduled to commence shortly.
- 3.21 For all three sites, we are adopting a placemaking approach to delivery, exploring wider opportunities in each area. Taking a placemaking approach will enable us to deliver in line with our key principles of increasing council housing in the city, ensuring placemaking plans that create diverse communities through mixed tenures and that the plans are financially viable.

- 3.22 Based on the feedback that we have received to the draft Rehousing Policy and Local Lettings Plan, as outlined in Section 6 below, this report is recommending a range of changes to the 'drafts' and that Cabinet now approve these policies across all eight LPS buildings.
- 3.23 Based on feedback from leaseholders as outlined in Section 7 below, this report recommends that the Council continue with the existing buyback programme and proactively engage with leaseholders throughout its delivery. It is also recommended that further investigation of a potential 'lease swap' option is progressed. The latter will be subject to further Cabinet approval.
- 3.24 Work to advance the development options for each site is progressing within the scope of the funding approved by Cabinet in July.

4 Consultation Programme Overview

- 4.1 The consultation covering the preferred option, the LLP and Rehousing Policy and the Leaseholder Offer was launched on Monday 13th October 2025 and ran until Monday 12th January 2026. Residents were invited to take part via an online YourVoice survey hosted on the Council's website, with paper copies available on request. A range of engagement activities were also delivered through multiple channels and were personalised to reflect residents' varied needs, circumstances and preferences.
- 4.2 A range of workshops were held with the Resident Advisory Groups prior to the launch of the consultation, to help shape the consultation:
- Thursday 28th August 2025 (11.00-1.00pm & 6.00-8.00pm) - Draft LLP and Rehousing Policy Workshop, Hosted at Leach Court, Brighton for all three RAG groups
 - Monday 22nd September 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – RAG Meeting, St James's House
 - Wednesday 24th September 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – RAG Meeting, Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge
 - Thursday 25th September 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – RAG Meeting, Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks'
- 4.3 To support participation and gather feedback, the Council then held a series of consultation and visioning workshops. These sessions took place on:
- Monday 24th November 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – St James's House
 - Tuesday 25th November 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge
 - Thursday 27th November 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks'
- 4.4 In addition, drop-in resident days were delivered across all 3 LPS sites that created approachable, informal settings for discussions and supported

residents who prefer conversational rather than formal engagement. These took place on:

- Monday 1st December 2025 – Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge
 - Wednesday 3rd December 2025 – St James’s House
 - Tuesday 9th December 2025 – Whitehawk ‘Bird Blocks’
- 4.5 To ensure maximum engagement, two door-knocking campaigns were undertaken across all eight blocks. These campaigns offered individual support to residents in completing the survey including interpreter-supported sessions provided on request to residents with language barriers; health needs or anxiety, and accessibility issues, and ensuring equal access to information. These were held on:
- Monday 24th November 2025 to Friday 5th December 2025
 - Thursday 8th January 2026 to Monday 12th January 2026
- 4.6 Monthly resident drop-ins were held at each site throughout the programme of consultation.
- 4.7 A total of 458 responses were received to the survey. Of these, 312 respondents (68.1%) were residents, 133 respondents (29%) were individuals currently on the housing register, and 13 respondents (2.8%) did not fall into either category.
- 4.8 Of the 312 residents, 269 were secure council tenants, 34 temporary accommodation tenants (including Seaside Homes tenants), 2 private tenants, 7 leaseholders. Respondents were directed through different sections of the survey depending on their circumstances.
- 4.9 Feedback gathered through informal conversations at engagement events has been an important complement to the 458 survey responses. While all residents were encouraged and supported to complete the online survey, it is recognised that some may have chosen not to do so.
- 4.10 During the consultation period, all applicants on the Housing Register- regardless of their current tenure-were contacted by email on three separate occasions and invited to provide feedback. In addition, a prominent notification was placed on the homepage of the online bidding system, including a direct link to the consultation and information outlining how the proposed policy change could adversely affect Housing Register applicants. This approach ensured that residents actively seeking Council housing were fully informed of both the consultation and the potential implications for them.
- 4.11 The Council places strong importance on all forms of resident feedback and continues to document and retain this information to ensure that residents’ views and concerns are clearly understood. Where appropriate, this feedback is also informing the ongoing development and refinement of the programme.

5 Consultation Response Highlights in relation to the Preferred Option

- 5.1 As outlined at 3.7 in this report, under the Housing Act (1985) Section 105, all councils have a legal obligation to consult secure tenants on proposed changes to the management, maintenance, improvement or demolition of the homes they manage, as well as changes to the provision of services or amenities. In addition, the Council has duty to consult leaseholders, TA and private tenants.
- 5.2 After Cabinet approved the in-principle recommendation in July 2025 to pursue the preferred option of full regeneration of the LPS buildings, involving demolition and redevelopment, the Council commenced the required consultation in October 2025 as part of the wider consultation process outlined in Section 4.
- 5.3 The full consultation report (Appendix 2) provides a detailed summary of the Council's consultation with secure tenants, leaseholders, TA and private tenants on the in-principle recommendation to demolish and redevelop the eight LPS buildings.
- 5.4 A summary of high-level, site-specific statistics is provided below under 5.5 for St James's House, 5.10 for Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge, and 5.15 for the Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks', highlighting the key themes and insights drawn from the full report. Residents across all sites contributed detailed feedback on their homes and the surrounding area, including what they value, the challenges they face, and the indoor and outdoor facilities they would like to see incorporated into any future development.
- 5.5 **St James House**
- 5.6 The consultation received 74 responses out of 120 households at St James's House, representing a response rate of 61.6%. These were comprised of 64 secure council tenants, 5 temporary accommodation tenants (including Seaside Homes tenants), 2 private tenants, and 3 leaseholders.
- 5.7 Key resident insights:
- There is strong resident understanding of the Council's position, with 88% clear why refurbishment is not the preferred option, and 92% clear why redevelopment is the preferred option.
 - Residents value the location highly, particularly transport links, access to shops and services, and proximity to the seafront and town centre.
 - Home features most appreciated include room size and layout, private outdoor spaces such as balconies, and views from windows.

- Neighbourhood concerns are dominated by safety issues, with 69% reporting street based antisocial behaviour, alongside worries about feeling unsafe and problems with waste and rubbish.

5.8 Implications summary for design and engagement:

- The Council recognises residents' strong appreciation for outdoor space and balconies, sound proofing, improved water pressure, and storage space. These priorities will be considered as design work progresses and will adhere to building safety regulation standards where necessary. Two lifts will be provided as a minimum to any future high rise development proposals.
- The council intends to address resident safety concerns by applying Secured by Design (SBD) principles to redevelopment proposals that will integrate crime prevention measures into building design to create safer, more secure environments. Appropriate bin storage facilities will also form part of any future design process.
- Future proposals will seek to retain and complement the areas well connected, accessible character, ensuring that new development supports and integrates with existing local amenities valued by residents.
- The Council will continue to provide clear, accessible communications about redevelopment proposals and maintain ongoing engagement regarding existing building maintenance to support resident reassurance.

5.9 Conclusion:

- While many of the concerns raised relate to long-standing building and environmental issues, the majority of residents demonstrated a strong grasp of why refurbishment is not being pursued and why redevelopment is considered the most viable route forward.
- Taken together, the feedback provides a clear picture of what matters most to residents at St James's House: a well-connected location, homes that are comfortable and practical, and a neighbourhood where people feel safe.
- This insight will play an important role in shaping the next stage of design work and future engagement, ensuring that any proposals respond directly to the priorities residents have identified and support a safer, more resilient living environment over the long term.

5.10 **Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge**

5.11 The consultation received 100 responses out of 174 households at Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge, representing a response rate of 57.4%. These were comprised of 88 secure council tenants, 10 temporary accommodation tenants (including Seaside Homes tenants), and 2 leaseholders.

5.12 Key resident insights:

- Most residents understood the Council's position, with 91% clear about why refurbishment is not preferred and 88% clear about why demolition and redevelopment is proposed.
- Residents value their homes and location highly, particularly the size and layout of rooms, the views, and their balconies/outdoor space. In the area, the strongest positives were transport links, proximity to shops and services, and green spaces nearby.
- A significant proportion reported no issues with their homes or the area. Where concerns were raised, they focused on a lack of storage, and noise/soundproofing issues, while neighbourhood concerns focused on antisocial behaviour.
- When thinking about the future of the area, residents emphasised the importance of feeling safe, having access to local services, and easy accessibility to transport links, indicating a desire for a well-supported and cohesive neighbourhood.

5.13 Implications summary for design and engagement:

- The council recognises the strong resident preference for good room sizes, balconies, views, better storage, and improved soundproofing. These elements will be explored through the design process, subject to feasibility and statutory consultees.
- The council intends to address resident safety concerns by applying Secured by Design (SBD) principles to redevelopment proposals that will integrate crime prevention measures into building design to create safer, more secure environments.
- Any redevelopment proposals should protect and complement the location benefits residents value most – transport connections, local shops and services, and proximity to key destinations.
- Residents expect clear, reliable updates. The Council will continue to ensure accessible, timely communication regarding redevelopment proposals and the ongoing management of existing buildings to provide reassurance as the programme progresses.

5.14 Conclusion:

- While many residents reported satisfaction with their current homes and surroundings, the themes of storage, soundproofing, safety, and neighbourhood conditions were consistently raised. Importantly, most respondents recognised why refurbishment is not the preferred option and expressed an informed understanding of the case for demolition and redevelopment.

- The feedback from residents of Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge reflect both a strong connection to their homes and a clear understanding of the wider issues influencing the Council's position.
- The Council acknowledges these insights and will continue to ensure that residents' priorities — including safety, transport connectivity, access to services, and the quality of future homes — are embedded in the design development and ongoing engagement as the programme progresses.

5.15 Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks'

5.16 The consultation received 138 responses out of 236 households in the Whitehawk 'Bird blocks', representing a response rate of 58.4%. These were comprised of 117 secure council tenants, 19 temporary accommodation tenants (including Seaside Homes tenants), and 2 leaseholders.

5.17 Key resident insights:

- 86.9% of residents understood why refurbishment is not the preferred option, and 90.5% understood why the preferred option is demolition and redevelopment.
- Residents most appreciated the size and layout of rooms, followed by heating, hot water and warmth and existing balconies or outdoor space.
- The most frequently cited issues about current homes included poor water pressure, noise and soundproofing, inadequate bin storage, and anti-social behaviour in the area, though a large portion of respondents did not report any issues with their current homes or the area.
- Residents would like to see balconies, good lighting for safety, and local shops as part of any new development, including more than one lift in blocks, a community room for meetings/activities, and easy access in and out for residents.
- Residents felt that local shops, protecting existing green spaces, and facilities for young people were also priorities for the area's future.

5.18 Implications summary for design and engagement:

- Residents appreciated the size and layout of their existing homes, followed by heating, hot water and warmth and existing balconies or outdoor space. This feedback will be shared as designs progress, with options explored to retain or enhance these features where possible.
- Given concerns around existing bin storage and anti-social behaviour in the area, future proposals will apply Secured by Design (SBD) principles, including looking at bin storage solutions, and considering how layout can reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour.

- Residents' top outdoor priorities – balconies, good lighting for safety, and access to local shops – and indoor priorities such as multiple lifts in blocks, should be considered as part of the design development process subject to feasibility and statutory consultees.
- Future proposals should maintain transport connectivity, proximity to amenities, and green space access that residents value most, ensuring new development supports the area's established character.
- The Council will continue to provide clear, accessible updates on redevelopment proposals as proposals progress.

5.19 Conclusion:

- The consultation showed a broad understanding of the structural issues affecting the Whitehawk blocks, with most residents recognising why refurbishment is not the preferred option and why demolition and redevelopment offer a more sustainable long-term solution.
- Overall, the feedback from the Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks' demonstrates that residents value many aspects of their existing homes and neighbourhoods, while also highlighting clear areas where improvements are needed.
- The Council acknowledges the key themes raised through the engagement and will continue to ensure that these insights directly shape the design development, rehousing approach, and ongoing communication with residents as the programme progresses.
- The Council also acknowledges the ongoing development of the wider Whitehawk masterplan, which continues to progress, with the necessary procurement processes scheduled to commence shortly. Feedback gathered through the engagement and consultation activity will be incorporated into the further development of the Whitehawk masterplan.

5.20 Summary of Seaside Homes' Consultation Response on the LPS Regeneration Programme

5.21 Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes (Seaside), who own the leases of 45 homes within the LPS buildings and have a Local Delivery Vehicle arrangement with the Council for the provision of temporary accommodation which includes these homes, were also invited to submit a response to the consultation. They submitted a comprehensive response, provided in confidence, which will be considered as we plan the next phases of the programme.

5.22 Seaside's response highlighted a range of areas where they sought assurance around the support and solutions that should be provided for their residents during the process of them being rehoused from the blocks. This feedback will be reviewed as part of the implementation programme planning for the overarching rehousing programme.

5.23 Next Steps

- 5.24 The Council has now completed its legal obligation to consult with secure tenants regarding the first phase of this process, as well as its duty to consult leaseholders, TA and private tenants. Following the results of the consultations set out in this report and the options analyses provided to cabinet in July 2025, this report recommends that the preferred option of demolition and redevelopment should be taken forward for each site.
- 5.25 Cabinet is also being asked to approve the 'Initial Demolition Notice' for each site which will suspend the Right to Buy during this period.
- 5.26 The Council has the power to issue 'initial demolition notices' for each secure tenant on each of the sites under the Housing Act 1985. The notice formally signals the Council's intention to demolish and remains in force for up to seven years from date of service. The Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Care will need to give consideration as to the timing of the service of the initial demolition notices, though it is anticipated that the notice will be served as soon as possible for St James's house, and within the next financial year (April 2026-March 2027) for Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge, and the Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks'.
- 5.27 The Council currently anticipates demolishing the LPS blocks once they are fully vacated, expected within the next five to seven years. Whilst seven years is the maximum period allowed for by statute, the expectation is that works of demolition will be completed promptly.
- 5.28 Further consultation will continue as plans evolve, ensuring residents and stakeholders remain closely involved in shaping the next stages of the programme. This will include targeted engagement with local neighbours—such as adjoining property owners, nearby residents, local community groups and relevant businesses—particularly at key design and development milestones. These conversations will take place before any significant proposals are finalised, allowing local feedback to inform the emerging plans.
- 5.29 Any future decision to proceed with demolition would be subject to a separate approval process and the issuing of a 'Final Demolition Notice', which would end any existing Right to Buy claim and prevents new applications. Additional statutory consultation requirements would also apply at that stage, providing further opportunities for those directly affected to comment.
- 5.30 In line with the July Cabinet report, officers are progressing plans for the redevelopment of each site. Individual schemes will be brought back to Cabinet for approval at the appropriate stages.
- 5.31 At each stage requiring approval, development proposals will be supported by a detailed business case demonstrating affordability and long-term financial viability. This will include full capital and revenue implications, funding assumptions, comprehensive risk assessments, and evidence of

deliverability. Proposals will also demonstrate alignment with corporate priorities, housing need, and value for money principles.

6 Local Lettings Plan & Rehousing Policy Consultation

- 6.1 The LLP forms part of the Council's wider Allocations Policy, which enables the use of local lettings plans to address specific local issues such as those arising from major regeneration schemes.
- 6.2 The draft Local Lettings Plan (LLP) sets out the Council's proposed principles and procedures for allocating suitable alternative accommodation to secure council tenants living in the LPS blocks affected by the regeneration programme (as defined in Section 2). Its objectives are to ensure timely decanting in line with regeneration timescales, manage rehousing and compensation fairly.
- 6.3 Suitable alternative accommodation must meet statutory requirements including equivalent security of tenure and appropriateness in terms of rent, size and location, under Schedule 2, Part III of the Housing Act 1988.
- 6.4 The LLP outlines the allocation process and rehousing options for secure tenants who will lose their permanent homes because of the LPS regeneration programme. The Council's Housing Allocations Policy allows for the adoption of an LLP and sets out specific steps that must be followed in developing one.
- 6.5 The LLP introduces a "Priority to LPS" category within the choice-based lettings system to reflect the immediate need to rehouse secure tenants affected by regeneration. It also enables direct offers of suitable accommodation in exceptional circumstances, in line with the Allocations Policy.
- 6.6 Secure tenants opting to remain in Council housing will retain their security of tenure and will be rehoused into suitable accommodation.
- 6.7 Prior to the adoption of the LLP, Cabinet agreed on the 17th July 2025 that all impacted LPS secure tenants would receive Band B Management Transfer priority (unless already on an equivalent or higher banding) and that those permanently moving out of the affected blocks from that date would be eligible for financial compensation.
- 6.8 Appendix 5 provides a comparison between the current Allocations Policy incorporating these changes as at 17th July 2025, and the final draft LLP. The key differences are like for like offers unless households are overcrowded; the introduction of the 'Priority to LPS' bidding category; flexible bidding timescales; and the requirement to make two suitable offers.
- 6.9 Properties subject to the Local Lettings Plan will be clearly labelled "Priority to LPS" within the advertisements on the Choice-based letting scheme. This applies to BHCC properties only. Eligibility for bidding on these properties will be applied sequentially to secure tenants by block in line with the

rehousing programme for each block. This will be St James's House first, then Nettleton and Dudeney and lastly the 5 bird blocks.

- 6.10 Identifying properties for this category will be based upon matching (locating one and two-bedroom properties save where there is overcrowding) which as far as possible meet the requirements of secure tenants being moved out of the LPS blocks, rather than a percentage of all BHCC void properties. This means we will not apply a blanket proportion of voids to the LPS programme. Instead, we will review voids as they arise and identify those that match the housing need profile of each block.
- 6.11 The Rehousing Policy sets out the approach taken when secure and introductory tenants lose their home because of the Council's Housing Regeneration Programme.
- 6.12 For secure tenants who will be permanently rehoused, the aims of the policy are to ensure early and ongoing consultation, enable tenant influence over rehousing options, minimise disruption, provide practical and financial support, make best use of available stock, minimise rent loss, and ensure that blocks are decanted in accordance with regeneration timescales through the LLP.
- 6.13 Each household will have a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to guide them through the process. Support will be tailored to individual circumstances and may include multi--agency involvement, practical assistance and financial help, addressing the key areas expressed by residents in the survey and through resident engagement activities.
- 6.14 The policy also outlines the approach to supporting private sector tenants and non-secure tenants living in TA provided by the Council under its homelessness or homelessness prevention duties under Part VII Housing Act 1996 or Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, living in any affected block.
- 6.15 The policy references the use of Notices of Seeking Possession for the purpose of housing regeneration and development, if rehousing is not successful in all cases. Notices could be served as early as eighteen months prior to the Council requiring possession to commence redevelopment. Legal have advised that due to the significant backlog within the Courts system, and the potential complexity of some of these cases, early notice may be required.
- 6.16 The Rehousing Policy outlines the payments secure tenants may be entitled to, which include Home Loss Payments and Disturbance Payments.
- 6.17 A Home Loss Payment is a statutory payment made to compensate secure tenants for having to permanently move out of their home. This mandatory lump sum payment is fixed by Section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973.
- 6.18 Secure tenants become eligible for Home Loss payment following a formal decision to demolish, remove or dispose of their homes having been made

by Cabinet. Cabinet previously took the decision that eligibility for the compensation payments would be effective from the Cabinet in principle decision on 17th July 2025.

- 6.19 Disturbance Allowances payments cover 'reasonable expenses' involved in moving. They can either be statutory or discretionary, depending on how long the tenant has lived at the property. If the secure tenant has not lived in the property for twelve months, they do not qualify for a Home Loss Payment. In this instance they have statutory entitlement to a Disturbance Allowance. If the secure tenant has lived in the property for over twelve months and qualifies for a Home Loss Payment, Disturbance Allowances are discretionary.
- 6.20 Discretionary payments are payments made over and above the legal obligations and can be used, for example, where a tenant does not qualify to receive a Home Loss payment as they have been a resident for less than a year, or to assist moves for temporary accommodation (TA) residents and private sector residents in cases where financial assistance with removal costs may be required to achieve the move.
- 6.21 TA tenants and private sector tenants are not eligible for home loss or statutory disturbance payments but may also receive support including guidance on financial help such as deposits or rent in advance, signposting to LDSF or charitable grants, and discretionary assistance with removal costs where appropriate.
- 6.22 The policy does not apply to leaseholders, who will instead be able to access a dedicated resource to help them through this process. The offer to Leaseholders is set out in section 7 of this report.
- 6.23 Section 16 of the July Cabinet report details the implications to rehousing and regenerating the eight LPS blocks for households on the Council's Housing Register and how this will be managed.
- 6.24 Regeneration of the LPS buildings provides an opportunity to increase the supply of affordable family sized homes, addressing the highest area of demand on the housing register. The anticipated delivery of more than 600 new social homes between 2025/26 and 2027/28, including through the Council's buyback programme, will help offset the medium-term impact of decanting the LPS blocks. Phasing the rehousing of secure tenants over a five-year period will further minimise pressure on the wider housing register.
- 6.25 Summary of Responses to Questions about the LLP**
- 6.26 Consultation with regards to the LLP and the Rehousing Policy was not confined to residents within the eight LPS Blocks.
- 6.27 Most temporary accommodation (TA) respondents currently living in the LPS buildings (28 out of 34) understand why secure tenants need to be rehoused as part of the regeneration plan. 5 respondents did not understand, and 1 did not answer. Private Tenants only gave 2 responses, both of which

understood why the Council needs to adopt the regeneration approach and rehouse tenants.

- 6.28 We do note that 1 in 7 TA responses did not understand, indicating a communications gap that will be addressed through ongoing Resident Advisory Group (RAG) meetings throughout the process.
- 6.29 Housing Register respondents expressed concerns that introducing the LLP could increase their waiting times for a property. They highlighted worries about a reduced number of available properties to bid on and a perception that LPS tenants would receive priority ahead of them.
- 6.30 Suggestions for mitigating these concerns identified in the survey focused on ensuring clarity, transparency and fairness in the rehousing process. Respondents asked for clear timetables, regular visible reporting, and assurance that applicants with urgent needs will continue to be prioritised. Some also suggested organising LPS moves by property size and publishing clear eligibility and prioritisation criteria.
- 6.31 Of the 28 LPS resident responses received (from 26 temporary accommodation tenants, one private tenant, and one secure Council tenant), when asked about housing options that could help people on the housing register move more quickly, mutual exchange was the most supported route. However, it should be noted that under the housing legislation, this option is only available to social housing residents seeking to transfer/move. There was also some interest in supported access to the private rented sector, management transfers within provider stock, and using Homefinder UK for out-of-area moves.
- 6.32 Free-text comments from TA and private tenants highlighted a range of concerns, including frequent alarm activations, concerns arising from the demolition announcement, language barriers, and confusion about the distinction between 'temporary' and 'permanent' tenancy status. Respondents also referenced additional vulnerabilities such as autism, ADHD, and general discomfort with change. Further themes included financial barriers to moving, a desire to remain in Brighton & Hove or close to children's schools, and the need to retain access to employment without reliance on a car.
- 6.33 For those in TA within the blocks, the response shows the average waiting window for a secure tenancy is 6–12 months, but a sizeable number report that they had waited longer than two years already, which indicates the demand pressure in the queue.
- 6.34 In reviewing the consultation responses alongside the draft Local Lettings Plan (LLP) and Rehousing Policy, the Council has considered both general and specific feedback. Changes have been made to the LLP and associated policy documents where appropriate to respond to the issues raised and reduce foreseeable risks. Further detail on these changes is set out in the sections below.

6.35 Key Themes of Feedback and Outcomes

- 6.36 Feedback highlighted significant concern about the potential impact of the LLP on waiting times for households on the housing register, particularly those in temporary accommodation (TA) and some disabled households.
- 6.37 Most TA respondents rated the prospect of longer waiting times as a 9–10/10 impact, describing serious health impacts arising from unsuitable homes such as damp, mould, or lack of accessibility, and expressed fears of never being priorities.
- 6.38 Fairness and transparency were recurring themes. Respondents asked the Council to continue prioritising the most urgent needs across all groups, publish clear block by block timetables, and provide transparent reporting on lettings allocated to LPS tenants compared with the wider register.
- 6.39 The Council notes and acknowledges these concerns. The LLP is aligned with the Allocations Policy to ensure fairness and transparency in the allocation and prioritisation for rehousing secure tenants impacted by the LPS regeneration.
- 6.40 Some respondents from the housing register were concerned that LPS tenants would be prioritised above others. They asked for clearer criteria, better visibility of queue position, and recognition of non-mobility related disabilities.
- 6.41 Visibility will continue to be supported through the “What are my chances” tool available on the Homemove website, which shows bidding outcomes on advertised properties, the number of bids received and the banding of successful applicants so applicants can gauge where they are in the bidding process.
- 6.42 Of the 265 secure council tenants who responded to the question on how the Council should prioritise the order of housing offers, respondents most frequently supported giving priority to households with health or disability related needs (41.8%), followed by older residents (29.8%) and those with longer tenancies (25.6%), with smaller levels of support for other approaches.
- 6.43 The allocations policy and LLP already incorporate health, disability mobility, care and safeguarding considerations when assessing housing need and determining priority banding.
- 6.44 Priority moves through Band A will still be in place.
- 6.45 Prioritising LPS households in line with the regeneration sequence remains essential to meet demolition timescales and ensure affected tenants are suitably rehoused in secure, settled homes.
- 6.46 The option for making direct lets in accordance with the Allocations Policy will ensure essential moves are prioritised.

- 6.47 Where LPS tenants have the same priority date, the tenancy start date will determine their priority date above other LPS applicants.
- 6.48 Response suggestions to mitigating the impact for those on the housing register included providing options that people could use to find new homes. The Council will continue to promote other housing routes for applicants on the housing register including, shared ownership provided by other Registered Providers, and financial support to access private rented accommodation within or outside the city.
- 6.49 Residents also identified what matters to them in terms of design & local services, including safety, green space, a mix of property sizes, parking and mobility aid storage, transport links, and proximity to GPs/schools.
- 6.50 These factors will be considered in both rehousing decisions and the wider regeneration programme.
- 6.51 Respondents recognised existing strengths in the draft policies, including the 'Right to Return' for decanted secure tenants, the setting of Band B (Council Management Transfer) for the rehousing process, and the requirement for two suitable offers to be made before possession is enforced.
- 6.52 The Rehousing Policy provides Single Point of Contact (SPOC), multi-agency support, and defines Home Loss & Disturbance payments with practical items funded (moving, carpets, curtains, appliances, post redirection).
- 6.53 Support needs identified through the 264 survey responses included the need for a dedicated rehousing officer, help with packing, appliances, completing forms, understanding legal rights, bidding support, attendance at viewings, help setting up utilities, and broader support such as benefits advice or advocacy. Taken together, these point to the value of a holistic approach.
- 6.54 The Rehousing Policy provides a tailored approach with a named SPOC and multi-agency working to ensure the support offer is responsive to the range of needs identified by residents.
- 6.55 **Key Issues and Specific Outcomes for the LLP and Rehousing Policy**
- 6.56 There were four key questions in the LLP and Rehousing Survey:
- Number of offers of suitable accommodation
 - Length of time for bidding
 - Prioritisation of LPS household
 - Support offer
- 6.57 **Numbers of offers of suitable accommodation:**

- 6.58 LPS secure council tenants were asked how many offers of suitable housing they should receive. Of the 264 responses, three offers received the highest level of support (20.5%), followed by views that the number should depend on residents' personal circumstances (14.2%), with two offers supported by 8.5%.
- 6.59 Based on best practice and available stock, the LLP and Rehousing Policy recommend making two offers of suitable accommodation per household. It is anticipated that the tailored rehousing support and advice approach will enable households to find suitable new homes either through choice based lettings or through a direct offer of accommodation in exceptional cases; or support tenants to take up the other rehousing options. No notice of possession will be enforced until two suitable offers have been made under the LLP and the review period has expired, as set out in the LLP.

6.60 Refusal and Review Process

- 6.61 LPS Secure Council tenants were asked, 'Should you be able to refuse an offer?', with 262 responses received. The majority of those who answered expressed a preference for some degree of choice, favouring the ability to refuse offers in certain circumstances. Only a very small proportion supported requiring tenants to accept the first suitable offer. Overall, the feedback indicates a strong desire for autonomy and flexibility in the decision-making process.
- 6.62 The LLP is aligned to the current review process for refusals of accommodation within the Allocations Policy, including a cap of two direct offers and the option to request a review.

6.63 Length of Time for Bidding

- 6.64 LPS Secure Council tenants were asked, 'How long should you be able to bid for housing before we give you a direct offer?', with 261 responses received. The largest proportion (26%) preferred having personalised bidding periods, while smaller groups favoured set periods ranging from one to six months. Overall, the feedback suggests a preference for flexibility rather than a single fixed bidding timeframe.
- 6.65 The LLP will adopt a flexible approach to bidding periods rather than a set number of weeks or months. Timescales will reflect the deadlines for emptying each block, based on the Council's regeneration timetable, and depend on the availability of suitable accommodation. Rehousing officers will work closely with households to enable timely moves, with some flexibility. However, in line with the Allocations Policy and LLP, failure to achieve suitable rehousing in an agreed timescale could lead to bidding being restricted and direct offers made when needed to meet demolition deadlines.

6.66 Prioritising LPS Households for Moves

- 6.67 LPS secure council tenants were asked how housing offers should be prioritised under the draft Local Lettings Plan, with 265 responses received. The strongest support was for prioritising households with health or disability related needs (24.2%), followed by prioritising older residents (17.2%) and then those with longer tenancies (14.8%). Some respondents supported aligning priorities with the regeneration programme sequence. Lower levels of support were recorded for prioritising families with children, applying an equal priority date, or prioritising based on overcrowding. Overall, responses indicate a preference for prioritising based on vulnerability and need including disability as well as mobility issues.
- 6.68 The Local Lettings Plan will create a new priority category for LPS secure tenants, with adverts stating, "priority to LPS". This LPS Priority will be applied to secure tenants on a sequential block-by-block basis in line with the rehousing programme timetable i.e. St James's House first, then Nettleton and Dudeney, and then the 5 Bird blocks in order of demolition.
- 6.69 We will maintain the flexibility to prioritise households across all 8 blocks in those exceptional circumstances where urgent needs arise, including medical, care, disability/mobility, fire safety or safeguarding reasons through the direct let process.
- 6.70 Where LPS households have the same priority date, the tenancy start date will be used to identify priority over other LPS applicants.
- 6.71 All LPS applicants on the housing register will continue to be able to bid for other eligible properties as normal.
- 6.72 Other than in exceptional circumstances, this category will not apply to mobility rated properties to ensure households needing a mobility rated property on the wider housing register are not disadvantaged.
- 6.73 Moves out of an LPS block via Mutual Exchange would not entitle the outgoing resident to the Home Loss Compensation, as the tenancy does not end but is assigned to another incoming tenant. It is the final secure tenant who would be eligible for the Home Loss compensation or Statutory Disturbance payment depending on length of tenancy within the LPS block.
- 6.74 **Support offer**
- 6.75 The Rehousing Policy support offer has been strengthened to reflect feedback on the types of support residents need. A named SPOC and a tailored approach will ensure secure, temporary accommodation, and privately renting tenants receive appropriate support, including multiagency involvement where required.
- 6.76 We've noted concerns and made the housing assessment and support offer clearer in both the RP and LLP. Other than exceptional circumstances, we will not prioritise TA and private tenants over our secure tenants. The onward housing options for TA and private renters will vary depending on whether they are owed a homelessness duty, and they will generally be the

latter cohort to be rehoused from the blocks. Depending on their circumstances, many TA tenants will already have an earlier effective date and be bidding on Homemove.

6.77 Barriers to Understanding & Communication Outcome

6.78 We have strengthened communication in the LLP and Rehousing Policy to address concerns about language barriers. Translated materials, interpreting services, and plain English explanations of tenancy types will continue to be provided. English explanations of tenancy types will continue to be provided.

6.79 We recognise design and location needs in decant matching. People highlighted safety, green space, storage for mobility aids/bikes, parking, schools/GPs. The individualised support offer will take these needs/preferences into consideration when looking at rehousing offers.

6.80 Under-Occupying

6.81 There were several comments that suggested tackling under-occupation city wide. The Council will continue to proactively offer the Transfer Incentive Scheme to under occupying tenants (council and, via RPs where applicable) to free up larger homes. This is a key priority within the directorate plan and performance will continue to be reported through the current mechanisms. The wider issue of empty or under-occupied properties is not a satisfactory pathway to move people who hold secure tenancies. It would only be relevant, if a secure tenant wanted to give up their secure tenancy. It might be relevant, for private tenants or TA tenants by way of discharge of duty to the private sector.

6.82 For impacted LPS blocks, the offer of suitable accommodation must be broadly like-for-like in accordance with legislation. However, under occupying households will still be offered the option to downsize and will be eligible for TIS incentive payments in addition to Home Loss and Disturbance payments, alongside practical support to facilitate their move. Stock composition within the eight LPS blocks—175 one-bedroom homes, 382 two-bedroom homes and only one three-bedroom property—means that under occupation in these blocks is not expected to materially affect the availability of larger family sized homes

6.83 Right to Return Options for LPS Secure Tenants

6.84 The LLP and Rehousing Policy respond to concerns about losing community connections by offering LPS secure tenants the Right to Return to the new developments (where possible), even though this is not a statutory requirement.

6.85 The Right to Return policy requires six months of compliant arrears payments before a newbuild offer is made, maintains financial responsibility without excluding tenants who are experiencing difficulties. As part of the support offer, tenants will continue to receive help to manage and reduce any arrears, minimising the risk of tenancy breakdown or loss.

7 Leaseholder Offer

- 7.1 Cabinet approved an enhanced offer for the buyback of right to buy leasehold properties within LPS properties in March 2025 which was reaffirmed at the 17 July 2025 Cabinet meeting. This offer follows government guidance, and it has been formed through looking at best practice examples and is based on local average costs. The Council is also committed to reviewing the costs each year to ensure they remain accurate.
- 7.2 Progress to date has seen 12 completed sales with a further 12 homes progressing through conveyancing at the time of this report. We are continuing to engage with the remaining 20 leaseholders (not including Seaside Homes).
- 7.3 The consultation programme sought feedback from all current residents and non-resident leaseholders on the current buyback offer and whether any additional options should be included in the offer. 7 responses were received to the YourVoice online survey. In addition, except for two non-resident leaseholders, officers have also spoken to all leaseholders to understand their circumstances and preferences.
- 7.4 Most leaseholders said they would like to purchase a home on the open market and utilise the buyback offer, although some wish to remain in situ until the Council reaches a point of requiring their building to be vacated.
- 7.5 There was no expressed interest in shared ownership or private rent as potential options. These, however, will remain as potential options for leaseholders which the Council is open to exploring. There were concerns over shared equity as an option due to not owning the property outright.
- 7.6 For a small number of resident leaseholders whose financial circumstances may make purchasing a new home difficult, there was interest in learning more about how a lease swap could benefit them. This would enable a leaseholder, to 'transfer' their equity into a vacant council social rented home of an appropriate size and value that is not due for demolition.
- 7.7 The options of market purchase in the area (or elsewhere) and shared ownership will remain available, but the aim is to go further, to maximise choice and secure a better match with individual circumstances. It is therefore proposed to include the lease swap as a further option for resident leaseholders experiencing financial hardship.
- 7.8 Subject to the approval of section 2.2, the council will actively pursue the buyback of properties within the eight LPS buildings and will report back to Cabinet should a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) be required.

8 Pilot Home Ownership Pact

- 8.1 The Council have explored an option to introduce a pilot Home Ownership Pact for secure tenants living in the impacted LPS blocks who are eligible to

exercise their Right to Buy, enabling secure tenants to own homes in the private sector without depending on the Right to Buy.

8.2 Grants will support ownership paths such as outright ownership and shared ownership. It is proposed that the grant rates will be £40,000 for 1 bed, £45,000 for 2 bed and £50,000 for 3 bed homes. These exceed the current maximum RTB discount on offer and would support a deposit for a purchase either within or outside of the city.

8.3 Criteria for the scheme will include:

- A secure tenancy must have been held for at least 3 years in line with Right to Buy rules.
- A one-off lump sum payment for help to buy a home on the open market (including shared ownership options), contributing towards helping to pay for purchasing an interest in a property owned by a third party who might have an existing mortgage for a home they want to move into. The monies could be used to make adaptations (for example an extension) for the secure tenant to move into a privately owned property.
- It is envisaged that the payment will not be subject to a property charge and will not be subject to claw back. This will be reviewed with legal input.
- It applies to purchases within England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (excluding the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). It cannot apply to a mobile home or houseboat, a business or part business property (other than exceptional circumstances), or the existing council property under the RTB scheme.
- Vacant possession must be given of the existing property and the property returned in good condition.
- The tenant must not have arrears on rent, Council Tax or other accounts with us, be bankrupt, or have an active Right to Buy application while applying for this grant.

8.4 Resident Advisory Groups were consulted on this option at their meetings on 2nd, 3rd and 5th February 2026. All groups noted the proposal as another potential option for tenants should they be able to consider home ownership.

8.5 If approved, the pilot scheme will last for a year and then reviewed for its effectiveness. A budget of £0.4m is proposed for the scheme in 2026/27 which will allow up to 10 grants in the first year.

8.6 We have a legal duty to protect public funds and the council will ensure several measures are in place to prevent fraud regarding home ownership grants. This is primarily focused on strict eligibility checks (including identification and residency), restriction on usage and direct payments and referrals to fraud teams. This ensures that we are working in line with relevant housing, property and money laundering legislation.

9 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The £0.400m required to operate the pilot Home Ownership Pact scheme for eligible tenants living in the eight LPS blocks, has been identified within the agreed HRA revenue budget for 2026/27. This will be reviewed on an annual basis, based on the level of interest and uptake. This annual funding would allow the potential for up to 10 grants to be agreed in 2026/27.
- 9.2 The other recommendations in this report, including the Rehousing Policy, Local Lettings Plan and proposed lease swaps can be accommodated within the existing approved LPS capital budget allocation agreed in the July Cabinet paper which totaled £7.489m. This budget included covering initial development work, resident support and a future rehousing programme.
- 9.3 The overall capital budget request will be apportioned into any future development projects and regeneration options for scheme level proposals. New projects included in the HRA capital programme must demonstrate a breakeven position as a minimum to mitigate any financial risk to the HRA that could jeopardise investment in existing stock.
- 9.4 As outlined in the July Cabinet report, these proposals will result in a reduction in opportunity rental income across the HRA. For context, the forecast overall annual rental income for 2025/26 across the eight LPS blocks is £2.9m, assuming a 2% void rate.

Name of finance officer consulted: Sophie Warburton Date consulted: 10/02/2026

10 Legal Implications

- 10.1 As identified in the Cabinet report of July 2025, before any further decision can be made as to the demolition and regeneration of the sites concerned, the Council has a statutory obligation under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 to consult with secure tenants on “matters of housing management” and to engage and consult with wider stakeholders, including leaseholders who own properties on the sites referred to both in relation to the proposals for demolition and redevelopment and in relation to the offer of financial compensation and general assistance. This report details that the required consultation for each of the three sites has now been undertaken, and subject to the consideration of the results of these consultations, Cabinet has the necessary powers to approve the recommendations to take forward the option re demolition and redevelopment of each of the sites as set out in this report and the report to Cabinet of July 2025.
- 10.2 It should be noted that the duties to consult are not concluded, and there will be an ongoing requirement to consult in relation outlined plans and/or principles of development. This will not be confined to the previous consultee groups and will extend to wider community stakeholders such as affected businesses. There will need to be a consultation in relation to any planning application considered or made and careful thought will need to be given to timings around consultation and any planning applications.

- 10.3 Cabinet is asked to approve the Local Lettings Plan and the Rehousing Offer following consideration of the response to the consultation as set out in this report. Under section 166A of the Housing Act 1996, the Council is prohibited from allocating accommodation except in accordance with their housing allocation scheme. The draft Local Lettings Plan and Rehousing Policy therefore sets out the housing allocation rules for secure tenants affected by the housing regeneration programmes, and will, if approved, form part of the Council's overall allocation scheme.
- 10.4 The Rehousing Policy applies to residents (save for leaseholders) affected by the regeneration scheme and sets out the principles and procedures which will guide the decant and possession process, and which reflects the relevant housing legislation.
- 10.5 The impact of the LLP is to provide a transparent and flexible pathway by creating a subset of the allocations plan specifically for secure tenants. The Rehousing Policy provides a transparent policy for other groups as set out to best address the needs of non-secure tenants where the Council has a duty.
- 10.6 The consultation set questions in relation to the impact on waiting times for those on the housing register waiting list. The responses indicated concern about additional delays, a factor which has been considered in the recommendation to approve the LLP and Rehousing Policy. Delays are likely to place additional pressure on the Council when seeking to rehouse those in temporary accommodation and those applying for transfer.
- 10.7 While it is reasonable to assume that most occupiers of the impacted LPS blocks will be willing to move with the support detailed above, there may be individuals who will not wish to move. The Council has legal powers to obtain vacant possession against an occupants' wishes. These are powers of last resort. Early identification and particular focus will be required if it is considered likely that a household will be resistant to vacating. There will need to be ample time built into the programmes for each project considering the pressures on the Courts. Particular care will need to be taken with vulnerable individuals
- 10.8 The Council is authorised to implement a cash incentive scheme by virtue of Section 129 of the Housing Act 1988 as amended by The Regulatory Reform (Schemes under Section 129 of the Housing Act 1998) (England) Order 2003. Therefore, the council has the power to implement the scheme and impose such conditions as it considers appropriate. This scheme will provide another rehousing option for secure tenants and enable higher earning tenants to move into home ownership.
- 10.9 This report identifies a particular option to be explored regarding the introduction of a lease swap programme. Any such programme will need to be designed to comply with the requirements of the Housing Act 1985, including the general consents issued by the Secretary of State for the disposal of housing.

- 10.10 This report and the report of July 2025 identify the need for vacant possession of the impacted LPS blocks to enable the demolition and redevelopment of the sites. The Council has previously introduced a Leaseholder Offer which is modelled on the Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code. Consideration may need to be given to the future use of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to enable land assembly. There are numerous risks involved with the making of a CPO. These include costs, delivery and project time. A route to minimising such risks involves a robust business case for the redevelopment, project plan and acquisition by agreement in the first instance. These risks should be assessed and minimised prior to making a CPO. These are powers of last resort and would be the subject of further reports to cabinet.
- 10.11 With regards to the initial demolition notices referenced in a preceding section of this report, at this point they will be interim notices and further cabinet approvals will be required to serve final notices. There are specific criteria regarding duration and promptness of the carrying out of the works following the service of the notices. Their maximum duration is seven years, but the expectation is that works should be commenced promptly.

Name of lawyer(s) consulted: Siobhan Fry and Simon Court. Date consulted (13/02/26):

11 Risk Implications

- 11.1 The programme continues to operate within a complex risk environment, reflecting the scale of activity, dependencies across workstreams, and the need for coordinated delivery with internal and external partners. These risks are being actively monitored and mitigated through established governance arrangements to ensure timely intervention where required. Mitigation plans are in place and reviewed regularly to minimise impact wherever possible. Some material risks include:
- Limited availability of suitable properties to support early decant moves
 - Increased waiting times for tenants requiring temporary accommodation
 - Uncertainty regarding the financial viability of the regeneration proposals
 - Delays and costs caused by tenants choosing to move at the final stages, and the potential need for court action or compulsory purchase orders where tenants decline to move
 - Impact on health and wellbeing of residents, risk to leaseholders' mental health and their ability to engage in the process
 - Implementation of renters' rights bill could add delays to getting vacant possessions for purchases.
 - Psychological and physical impacts caused by the stress of moving when combined with issues such as addiction
 - Risk of financial and domestic abuse following pay out of large amounts of money to support moving. Financial impact on benefits
- 11.2 A programme level risk log is maintained and reviewed fortnightly to track emerging risks and escalate matters as appropriate. Each workstream also maintains its own risk register, recording specific risk implications alongside

associated mitigation actions. Where a workstream level risk requires immediate escalation following mitigation efforts, it is submitted to the LPS Board, added to the programme level risk log, and managed through the agreed governance processes.

- 11.3 Should Cabinet approve the recommendations set out in this report, all risk registers will be updated to reflect the next phase of programme activity.

12 Equalities, Inclusion & Engagement (EIE)

- 12.1 Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were completed in March 2025 for St James's House, Nettleton & Dudeney and the five North Whitehawk bird blocks. These assessments have informed the consultation methodology and continue to guide the support provided to residents as they explore future rehousing options.
- 12.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this LPS survey (March 2026). This EIA considers and makes the required adjustments for the affected population of the consultation, including secure tenants, leaseholders, private tenants, temporary accommodation residents, and Seaside Homes residents.
- 12.3 Given the potential impact of the draft Local Lettings Plan on many people on the housing register, the consultation exercise included people on the wider housing register.
- 12.4 Comparison with 2021 Census data shows that the age profile of council housing occupants is broadly similar to that of Brighton & Hove residents across all housing tenures. For the purpose of this report, "occupants" includes all household members, not only tenants (e.g., partners and children). Council tenants themselves tend to be older than other household members and older than the citywide population overall.
- 12.5 Housing management data highlights variation in age profiles across the LPS blocks:
- **St James's House:** Higher proportions of occupants aged 40–59 and 60+, and fewer aged 18–39. The proportion under 18 (15%) is in line with the citywide profile.
 - **Nettleton & Dudeney:** Residents tend to be older; 50% are aged 65+ (including 7% over 80), with no children under 18.
 - **Whitehawk Bird Blocks:** Higher proportions of residents aged under 18 and over 60, with fewer in the intermediate age groups.
- 12.6 Older residents may experience greater difficulty with relocation, particularly where they rely on established support networks. Moving home can be disruptive for all households and may be especially challenging for children and elderly tenants. Where children are involved, we aim to ensure moves do not disrupt educational continuity. Most tenants are of working age and may also experience disruption to travel-to-work routines.

- 12.7 Approximately 43% of occupants are identified as having possible additional support needs, including mental health conditions, physical health issues, learning difficulties, children with SEND, and sensory or literacy needs. For these residents, the process of moving home can create additional stress and require tailored support.
- 12.8 To ensure an inclusive and accessible moving process, services are adapted for disabled residents, including those who are housebound, D/deaf, blind, neurodivergent, or who have non-visible disabilities. Support also reflects the intersectional nature of residents' needs with partnerships in place with community organisations to help maintain social networks, ensure access to services, and minimise disruption.
- 12.9 The demographic composition of people living in temporary accommodation changes more rapidly than for council housing, due to shorter stays. However, temporary accommodation applicants (main applicants) are more likely to be Black and Racially Minoritised—around one third of those for whom ethnicity data is held—compared with the citywide population, with particularly higher representation of Black or Black British residents.
- 12.10 Gender profiles also vary across the LPS blocks. At Whitehawk, 55% of occupants are recorded as female, slightly higher than the wider council housing profile. No occupants are recorded as non-binary or intersex. Nettleton & Dudeney have a higher proportion of male occupants, while St James's House is more evenly balanced.
- 12.11 Feedback from Housing Register tenants informed the EIA for this consultation. EIAs for the consultation, the Local Lettings Plan (LLP), and the associated Rehousing Policy assess the potential impact of nonresponses from specific groups and ensures all relevant groups are represented. Engagement with affected residents will continue through the Resident Advisory Groups.
- 12.12 The eight LPS blocks have a diverse demographic profile, including variations in household type, spoken language, digital access, health and mobility needs, and preferred methods of communication. The engagement programme was therefore designed to ensure no household was excluded, offering participation routes that were safe, accessible, and culturally appropriate.
- 12.13 Key EIA measures included:
- Multi-format communication: digital (emails, online surveys), non-digital (letters, leaflets), and in person engagement (door knocking, Resident Days, drop-ins).
 - Addressing digital exclusion: key information was always available via face-to-face, printed, and onsite channels, ensuring residents without digital access could fully engage.
 - Language support: interpreter supported appointments and bilingual engagement officers.

- Accessibility and health considerations: home visits for residents with mobility issues; appointment-based sessions for those experiencing anxiety, mental health concerns, or complex needs.
- Choice and flexibility: weekly engagement across three sites, daytime and evening; multiple routes for submitting questions (email, post boxes, drop-ins, newsletters, door knocking).

12.14 These measures ensured that residents with differing capacities, communication preferences, and life circumstances were able to engage meaningfully, including those who are seldom heard.

Appendices

- 1) LPS Survey Report
- 2) Consultation Report
- 3) Rehousing Policy Regeneration Schemes
- 4) Draft Local Lettings Plan
- 5) LPS Rehousing Policy Comparison Table

Background Documents

- 1) July 2025 Cabinet Paper
- 2) Link to People Overview & Scrutiny January 26
- 3) Equality Impact Assessment: HASC-Mar-26-EIA on s105, LLP, Rehousing Policy, (Housing Register) consultation.

LPS Survey report

Are you a:

307/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Resident or leaseholder of Dudeney Lodge and Nettleton Court in Hollingdean; Falcon Court, Heron Court, Kestrel Court, Kingfisher Court and Swallow Court in north Whitehawk; or St James's House in Kemp Town 78.5% (241 choices)



Currently on the housing register 18.9% (58 choices)



None of the above 2.6% (8 choices)



Are you a:

241/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Secure council tenant 69.1% (212 choices)



No answer 21.5% (66 choices)



Temporary accommodation tenant (including Seaside Homes) 7.5% (23 choices)



Leaseholder 1.6% (5 choices)



Private tenant 0.3% (1 choice)



English

Selling your home back to the council

5/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 98.4% (302 choices)



Yes, I'm already doing this 1.3% (4 choices)



No, I haven't approached the council yet 0% (0 choices)



Other (please add your comments) 0.3% (1 choice)



Buying a new home on the open market

4/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 98.7% (303 choices)



No, I would not consider this 0.7% (2 choices)



Yes, I would consider this 0.3% (1 choice)



I need more information 0% (0 choices)



Other - Add your comment 0.7% (2 choices)



Lease Swap (council-to-council)

4/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 98.7% (303 choices)



I would consider this 0.3% (1 choice)



I need more information 0% (0 choices)



This doesn't work for me - please tell us more 1% (3 choices)



Most respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the council-to-council lease swap option, primarily because they do not want another council property or are considering moving to private rental instead. A recurring concern is that alternative council properties often have poor build quality (thin walls), less desirable locations, and lack proximity to essential services such as hospitals, shops, and doctors. There is also frustration about being forced to move, especially after investing time and money into their current homes, with a sense that new arrangements may leave them worse off or out of pocket. Respondents feel their specific needs and investments are not being adequately considered in the process.

Shared Equity (with the council)

4/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 98.7% (303 choices)



I need more information 0.7% (2 choices)



I would consider this 0% (0 choices)



This doesn't work for me - please tell us more 0.7% (2 choices)



English

Shared Ownership (with a housing association)

4/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 98.7% (303 choices)



I need more information 0.3% (1 choice)



I would consider this 0% (0 choices)



OtherThis doesn't work for me - please tell us more 1% (3 choices)



Private Renting

4/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 98.7% (303 choices)



I would consider this 0.3% (1 choice)



I need more information 0% (0 choices)



This doesn't work for me - please tell us more 1% (3 choices)



English

Under the draft Local Lettings Plan, how should we decide who gets housing offers first?

209/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

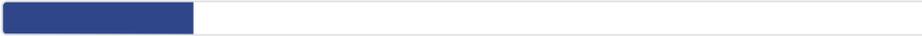
No answer 31.9% (98 choices)



People with health needs or disabilities 28.7% (88 choices)



Prioritise older residents 20.5% (63 choices)



Use a mix of different factors to decide 18.6% (57 choices)



How long someone has been a tenant 16.3% (50 choices)



Families with children who need stable housing 13% (40 choices)



Prioritise households based on the order of the block/sites being regenerated (ie St James's House, then Nettleton Court and Dudeney Lodge, and then the North Whitehawk blocks (Falcon Court, Heron Court, Kestrel Court, Kingfisher Court and Swallow Court but order is not known yet) 12.7% (39 choices)



Give all Large Panel System (LPS) households the same priority date 8.8% (27 choices)



Households currently living in overcrowded conditions 5.5% (17 choices)



Other (please tell us) 4.6% (14 choices)



Most respondents emphasised that all residents should be treated equally and have the same opportunity to access housing offers, with several explicitly stating there should be no favouritism or prioritisation. Some respondents suggested that secure tenants should be prioritised or that priority should be based on the order of regeneration or the condition of specific blocks, such as Saint James House due to ongoing structural issues. A few mentioned that individual circumstances, such as the ability to make plans or personal readiness to move, should be considered. One respondent questioned whether residents' opinions would influence the decision at all. Overall, the dominant theme is a strong preference for fairness and equal treatment in the allocation process.

English

How many offers of suitable housing should you get?

209/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Most respondents strongly emphasised the need for flexibility and choice, stating that people should be offered as many suitable housing options as necessary until they find a property that meets their needs. Several respondents specifically rejected the idea of a fixed number of offers, arguing that the process should continue until a suitable match is found.

A few respondents suggested a minimum number of offers, such as three or four, but still stressed the importance of finding genuinely suitable accommodation and allowing more offers if needed. There was also mention of specific needs, such as mobility requirements and proximity to carers, which should be taken into account when making offers.

Overall, the dominant trend is a call for a personalised, needs-based approach, with respondents wanting the process to be open-ended and responsive to individual circumstances rather than restricted by arbitrary limits.

English

How long should you be able to bid for housing before we give you a direct offer?

206/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Many respondents expressed uncertainty or a lack of opinion about how long people should be able to bid for housing before receiving a direct offer, with several stating they were “unsure” “no idea” or “n/a”.

A notable trend was the view that the responsibility for finding suitable housing should lie with the council, not the individual, especially for vulnerable residents or those with health and mobility issues. Some highlighted personal challenges, such as lack of internet access or health problems, making the bidding process difficult or inappropriate for them.

A few respondents felt there should be no time limit or that it “shouldn’t matter” how long someone bids while one suggested a specific period of four months and another said “quite a while”.

There was also a concern raised about transparency in the direct letting process.

Overall, the most common themes were uncertainty about the process, a preference for council-led solutions especially for vulnerable people, and some concern about fairness and transparency.

English

Should you be able to refuse an offer?

209/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Most respondents strongly feel that people should be able to refuse housing offers until they find a property that is suitable for their needs, without being limited to a set number of refusals. There is a clear emphasis on personal choice and not being forced into unsuitable accommodation, with some expressing frustration at previous negative experiences with council placements.

A few respondents suggest a more flexible approach, such as allowing refusals for a certain period (e.g., six months to a year) or a higher number of refusals (e.g., four times), after which some limit could be imposed. One respondent felt that refusing twice should be allowed if there are good reasons.

There are also concerns about accessibility, with one respondent highlighting the need for more support for those who do not use the internet. Another respondent requested clearer information on what counts as 'special circumstances' for refusing offers.

Overall, the dominant trend is a desire for greater autonomy and flexibility in refusing offers, with a strong focus on ensuring that people are not pressured into unsuitable housing.

English

What support would help you through the housing process?

209/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

A dedicated rehousing officer 59.3% (182 choices)



Help with packing and unpacking 45.3% (139 choices)



Disconnecting/reconnecting appliances 37.1% (114 choices)



Help with bidding for properties on Homemove 36.8% (113 choices)



Filling out forms 36.2% (111 choices)



Help with arranging utilities 34.2% (105 choices)



Understanding legal rights 34.2% (105 choices)



Viewing properties 32.2% (99 choices)



No answer 31.9% (98 choices)



Help with benefits and money 24.8% (76 choices)



Help with decluttering or downsizing 24.4% (75 choices)



Help finding new GP and local health services, such as a dentist 22.1% (68 choices)



Mental health and wellbeing support 21.8% (67 choices)



Ensuring mobility and adaptation needs are met 20.5% (63 choices)



Linking in to support service 15.3% (47 choices)



Being connected to an advocate 15% (46 choices)



English

Drop-in sessions in the community 14.7% (45 choices)



Translation, interpretation and Braille or other forms of documentation 8.5% (26 choices)



Another resident who's been through this (buddy system) 7.5% (23 choices)



Other (please tell us) 7.5% (23 choices)



The most commonly requested support across responses is the assistance of a dedicated rehousing officer, help with filling out forms, and support with bidding for properties on Homemove. Many respondents also emphasised the need for help with packing, unpacking, and removal services.

Several mentioned the importance of understanding legal rights and getting help with benefits and money, as well as support with arranging utilities and disconnecting/reconnecting appliances. There is a notable need for help with decluttering or downsizing, and for some, ensuring mobility and adaptation needs are met is crucial.

Some respondents highlighted the need for translation and interpretation services, including Braille or other accessible documentation. Health-related support, such as help finding new GPs or dentists, was also mentioned.

A few responses raised specific concerns, such as whether existing appliances can be moved and installed in new properties and the possibility of leaving some items behind for use in temporary accommodation. There were also requests for support on moving day itself, to ensure belongings are safe and the process is manageable.

Some respondents expressed uncertainty about their future needs and one highlighted the desire for partners to be rehoused together or nearby.

Overall, the main trends are a strong need for personalised, practical support throughout the rehousing process, with particular emphasis on removal services, administrative help, and ensuring individual needs (such as health, accessibility, and language) are met.

English

Council property elsewhere in Brighton & Hove

210/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

I would consider this 62.2% (191 choices)



No answer 31.9% (98 choices)



I need more information 3.3% (10 choices)



This doesn't work for me 2.6% (8 choices)



Housing association property in Brighton & Hove

166/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No answer 46.6% (143 choices)



This doesn't work for me 45% (138 choices)



I would consider this 4.6% (14 choices)



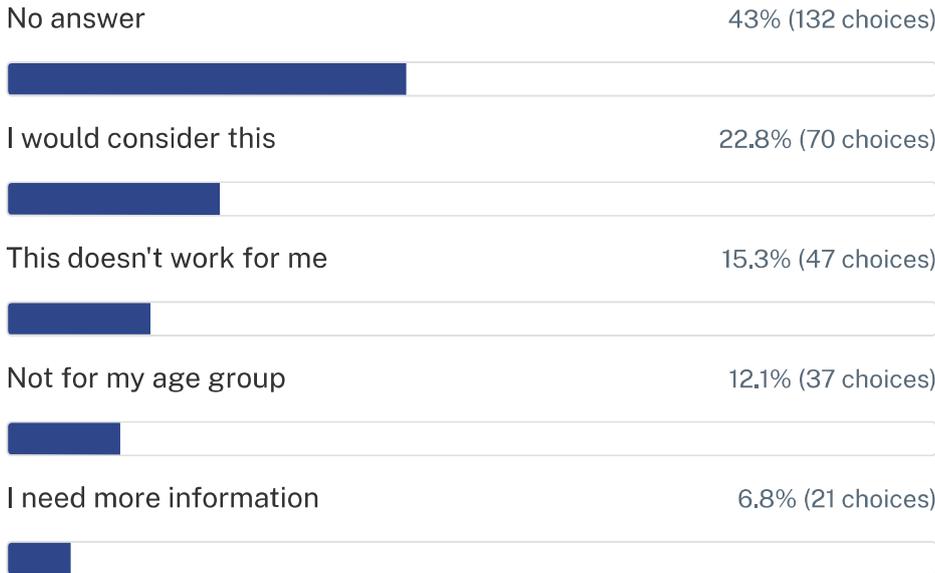
I need more information 3.9% (12 choices)



English

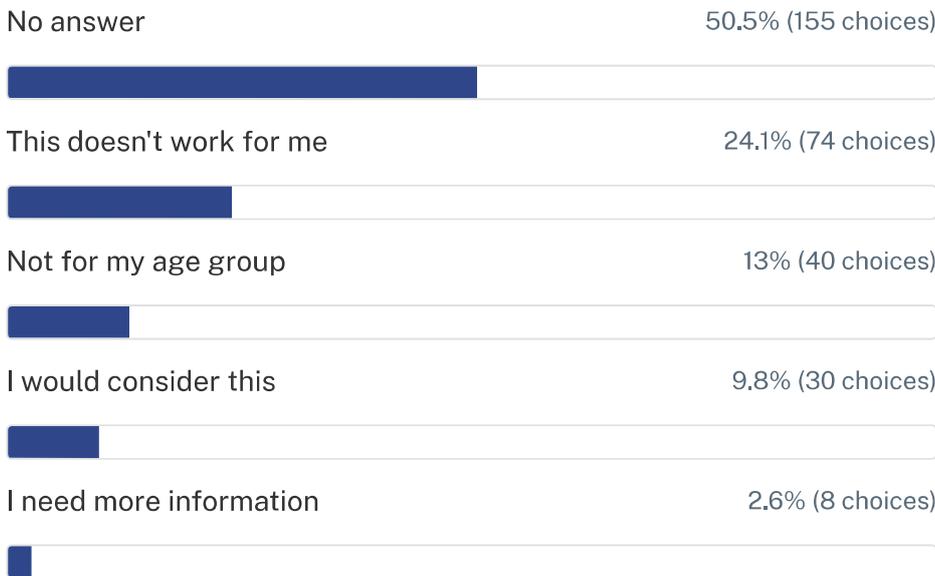
Seniors' housing (if you're 50+)

176/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Extra Care Housing 50+

154/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Shared ownership

152/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No answer 51.1% (157 choices)



This doesn't work for me 45.6% (140 choices)



I need more information 2.3% (7 choices)



I would consider this 1% (3 choices)



Right to return to new homes when built

200/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

I would consider this 36.5% (112 choices)



No answer 34.9% (107 choices)



This doesn't work for me 23.1% (71 choices)



I need more information 5.5% (17 choices)



Private rental with council support

157/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

This doesn't work for me 49.8% (153 choices)



No answer 48.9% (150 choices)



I would consider this 0.7% (2 choices)



I need more information 0.7% (2 choices)



English

Moving to social housing in another area (outside of Brighton & Hove)

170/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No answer 44.6% (137 choices)



This doesn't work for me 42.7% (131 choices)



I would consider this 8.5% (26 choices)



I need more information 4.2% (13 choices)



Are you interested in returning to the new homes on the site when built?

204/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

I would consider this 42.3% (130 choices)



No answer 33.6% (103 choices)



This doesn't work for me 17.9% (55 choices)



I need more information 7.8% (24 choices)



How long have you been waiting for social housing?

22/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



What is your current housing situation?

24/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



English

Do you understand why we need to rehouse secure tenants in the 8 LPS blocks if they are going to be regenerated?

24/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No answer 92.2% (283 choices)



Yes - I understand 7.2% (22 choices)



No - I don't understand 0.7% (2 choices)



If you are on the housing register, what do you think the impact of an LLP will be for you?

24/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 92.2% (283 choices)



LPS tenants getting priority over me 4.2% (13 choices)



I'm worried what will happen if there are not enough tenancies to go around while the work is being done 3.6% (11 choices)



I will have to wait longer for a property 2.6% (8 choices)



I may be in temporary accommodation or homeless for longer 2.6% (8 choices)



There being fewer properties available for me to bid on 2% (6 choices)



My family will be living in overcrowded accommodation for longer 2% (6 choices)



I will have to wait longer to downsize 0.3% (1 choice)



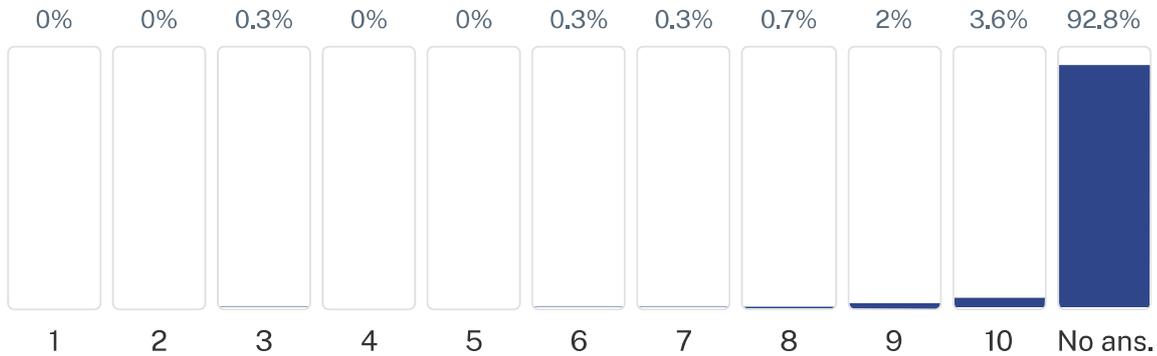
Other (please specify) 1.3% (4 choices)



English

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being no problem 10 being a major problem) – how much will you be impacted by being on the waiting list for a longer time.

22/307 -Linear scale -optional



The Local Lettings Plan is required as we will be legally obliged to rehouse the secure tenants and may have duties to others who live in the blocks. However, we would welcome any suggestions that you might make about how we can minimize the impact on others already or likely to join the waiting list:

23/307 -Multiple choice -choose many -optional



English

Are there any other housing options you would consider to help you move more quickly

20/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 93.5% (287 choices)



Mutual Exchange or “swapping tenancies” into another social housing property anywhere in the city or out of area 3.6% (11 choices)



Talk to my housing provider to see if they can do a management transfer within their housing stock 2.6% (8 choices)



Registering with the Homefinder scheme to help find a social housing property elsewhere in the country (this does not guarantee you an offer of social housing) 2% (6 choices)



Support to move to the private rented sector and help with rent deposit 1.3% (4 choices)



Move into seniors’ housing or Extra care housing (for over 50’s) 0.3% (1 choice)



Look into low cost or shared ownership options within the city 0% (0 choices)



Downsize to a smaller property through the council's transfer incentive scheme (TIS). If eligible for TIS, applicants will get an incentive payment based on the number of bedrooms they give up and will be given Band A priority transfer. Moves can be into another registered housing provider’s stock. Different housing providers will have different TIS schemes –check with your landlord for details of their scheme. 0% (0 choices)



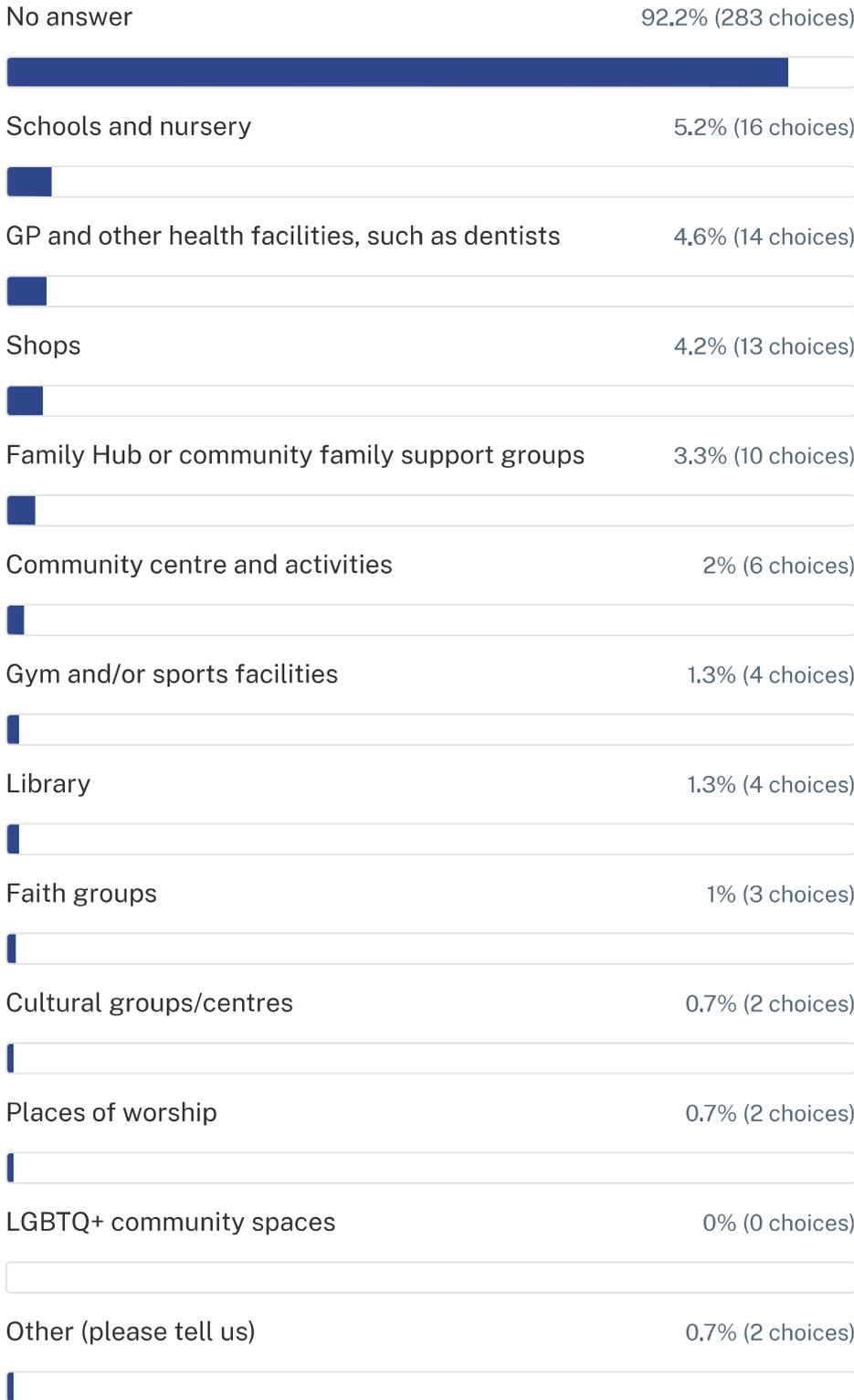
Other (please tell us) 2.3% (7 choices)



English

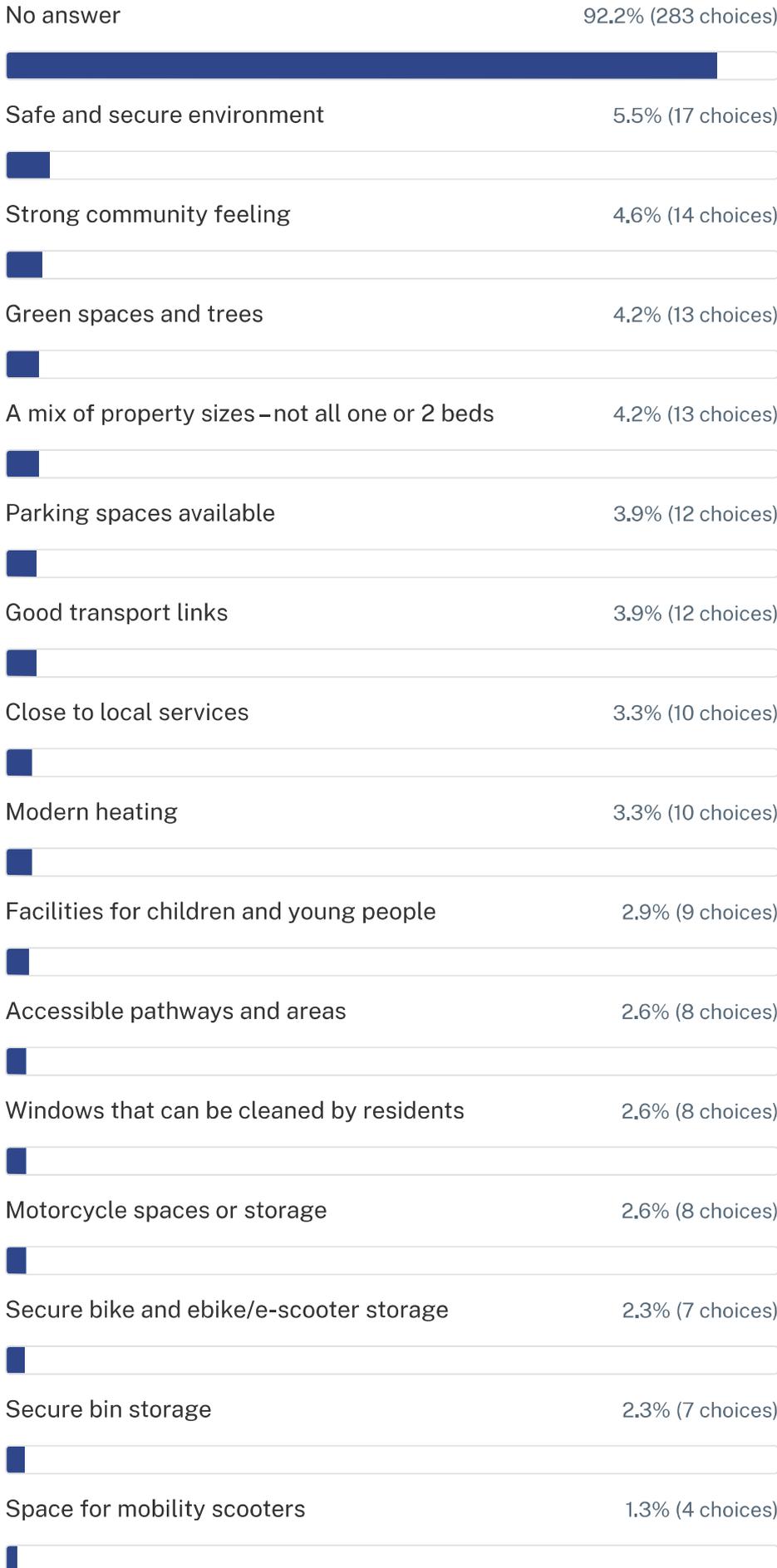
What local services or amenities are important to you?

24/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



What would make a new development a great place to live?

24/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



English

Garages available to rent 1.3% (4 choices)



Other (please tell us) 0.3% (1 choice)



About your home:

232/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

Size and layout of rooms 65.1% (200 choices)



View from windows 56% (172 choices)



Balcony or own outdoor space 55% (169 choices)



Heating, hot water and warmth 49.2% (151 choices)



Open plan or separate kitchen 45.6% (140 choices)



Storage space available 34.5% (106 choices)



No answer 24.4% (75 choices)



Sound proofing between homes 20.5% (63 choices)



Accessibility features 20.5% (63 choices)



Other (Please tell us) 6.5% (20 choices)



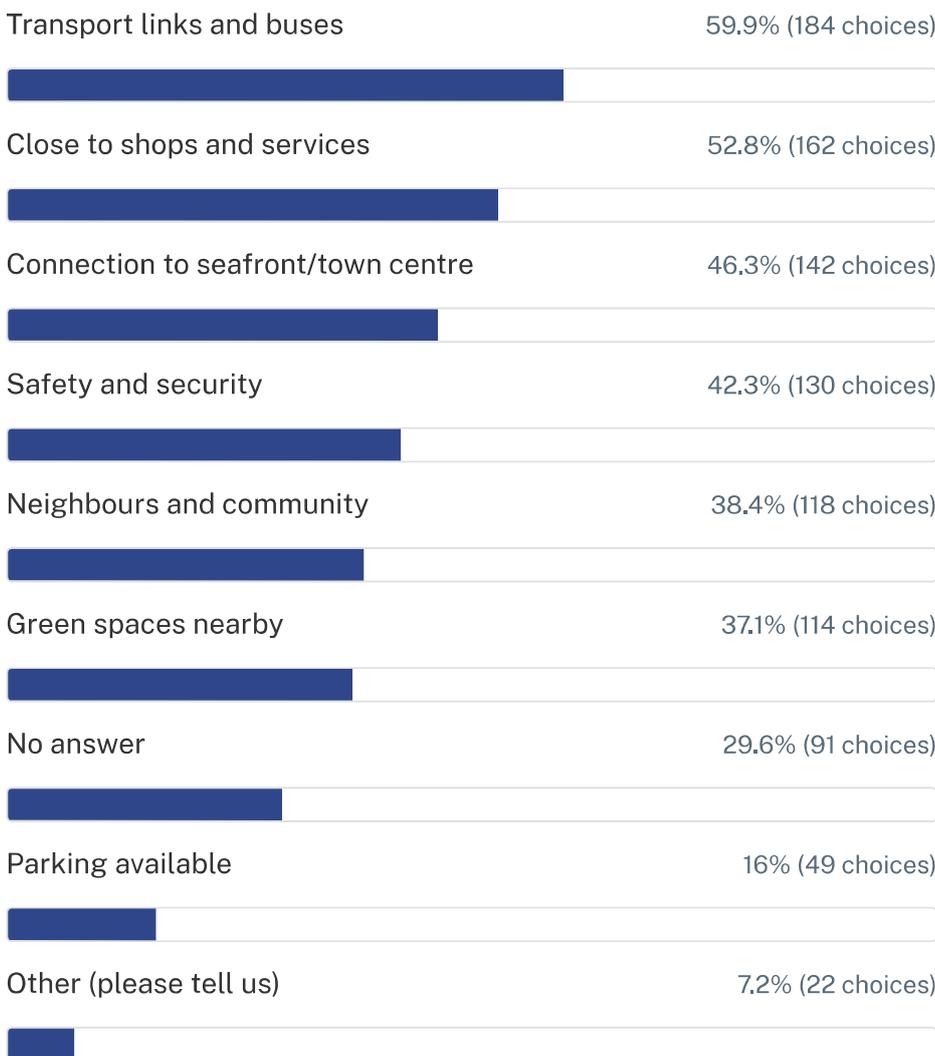
Respondents most frequently mentioned the size and layout of rooms, heating and warmth, views from windows, and having a balcony or outdoor space as important aspects of their homes. Several highlighted the need for better accessibility features, such as level flooring and electric doors. Storage space was noted as lacking by some and one respondent mentioned insufficient electric sockets. Light levels in flats were also a concern.

There were positive comments about feeling comfortable and confident in their homes enjoying good neighbours and outdoor space for plants and appreciating convenient transport links. However, overcrowding was raised as a significant issue by one respondent, who described being forced to share bedrooms with children of different ages. Some noted concerns about safety or the character of neighbours but generally felt able to manage.

Overall, the most common themes were the importance of space, warmth, light, and outdoor areas, with accessibility and storage also recurring concerns. Satisfaction with the community and location was mentioned, but there were notable issues around overcrowding and specific practical shortcomings.

About the area:

216/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



English

Safety and security concerns were mentioned frequently, with specific issues such as drug dealing and general feelings of the area being run down and depressing. Parking is highlighted as a significant problem including the need for visitor parking and mobility scooter storage. Transport links, proximity to shops and services, and access to green spaces are valued by several respondents, with some expressing appreciation for walking opportunities and family-friendly amenities. Noise from nearby pubs is noted as a disturbance. Overall, the responses reflect a mix of positive feelings about location and amenities, but recurring concerns about safety, parking, and environmental quality.

About your home:

175/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 43% (132 choices)



Poor water pressure 15% (46 choices)



Not enough storage 13% (40 choices)



Damp issues 12.4% (38 choices)



Size too small 8.5% (26 choices)



Number of lifts 8.5% (26 choices)



Heating problems 8.1% (25 choices)



No outdoor space 5.5% (17 choices)



Hard to get in and out 5.2% (16 choices)



No view or poor view 3.3% (10 choices)



Size too big 0.7% (2 choices)



Other (please tell us) 20.2% (62 choices)



English

Noise and soundproofing issues were the most frequently mentioned concern, with several respondents highlighting problems with noise from neighbours or poor sound insulation. Security and antisocial behaviour were also raised as significant problems, including feelings of intimidation and anxiety related to other residents.

Other recurring issues included lack of storage damp and plumbing problems and concerns about the general upkeep and care of the buildings. Some respondents mentioned specific issues such as poor water pressure heating problems pest infestations (ants) and the need for better windows. Accessibility and the adequacy of lifts and adaptations were also noted as concerns.

A few respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the area or neighbourhood itself. Overall, the responses indicate a strong desire for improvements in noise control, security, building maintenance, and basic amenities.

About the area:

184/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 40.1% (123 choices)



Street based antisocial behaviour, such as drugs, rough sleeping 33.9% (104 choices)



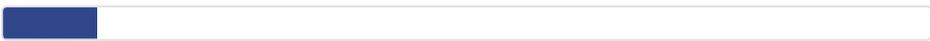
Bins storage/ rubbish 19.9% (61 choices)



Area feels unsafe 14.7% (45 choices)



Parking problems 10.1% (31 choices)



Problems with neighbours 8.1% (25 choices)



Poor road cleaning 6.2% (19 choices)



No green spaces 2.9% (9 choices)



Poor transport links 2% (6 choices)



Too far from shops/services 2% (6 choices)



Other (please tell us) 12.4% (38 choices)



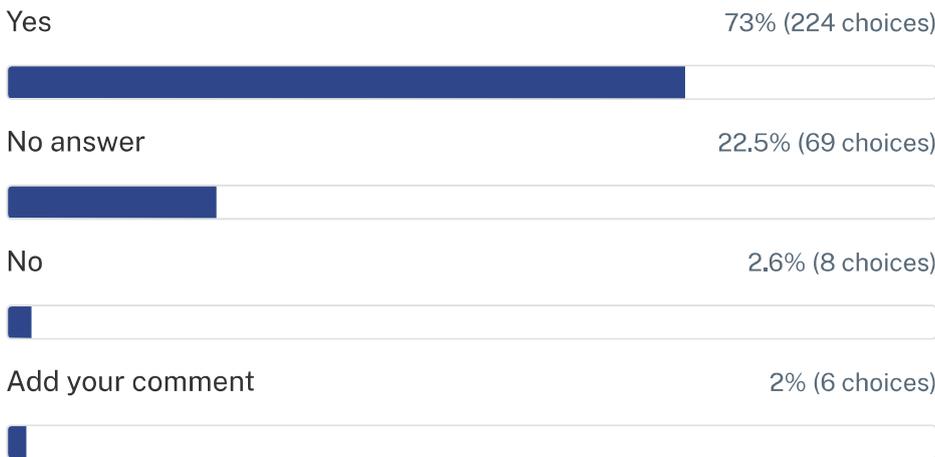
English

Respondents most frequently mentioned issues related to street-based antisocial behaviour, particularly drug use, drug dealing, and rough sleeping. Concerns about bins, rubbish, and inadequate bin storage were also common. Parking problems were frequently highlighted, including a lack of spaces and the need for more disability parking.

Other recurring concerns included feeling unsafe in the area problems with neighbours and issues with dog fouling. Some respondents mentioned poor road cleaning and a lack of green spaces. Individual comments also included noise from neighbours fear of power outages and minor nuisances such as hills. Despite these issues, one respondent expressed overall satisfaction with their area.

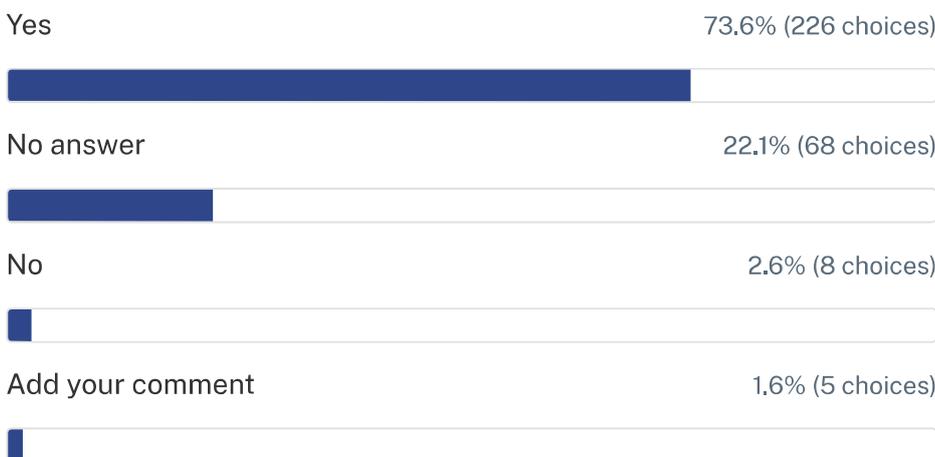
Is it clear why refurbishment of the buildings is not the preferred option?

238/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Is it clear why the preferred option is to knock down the current buildings and replace with new homes?

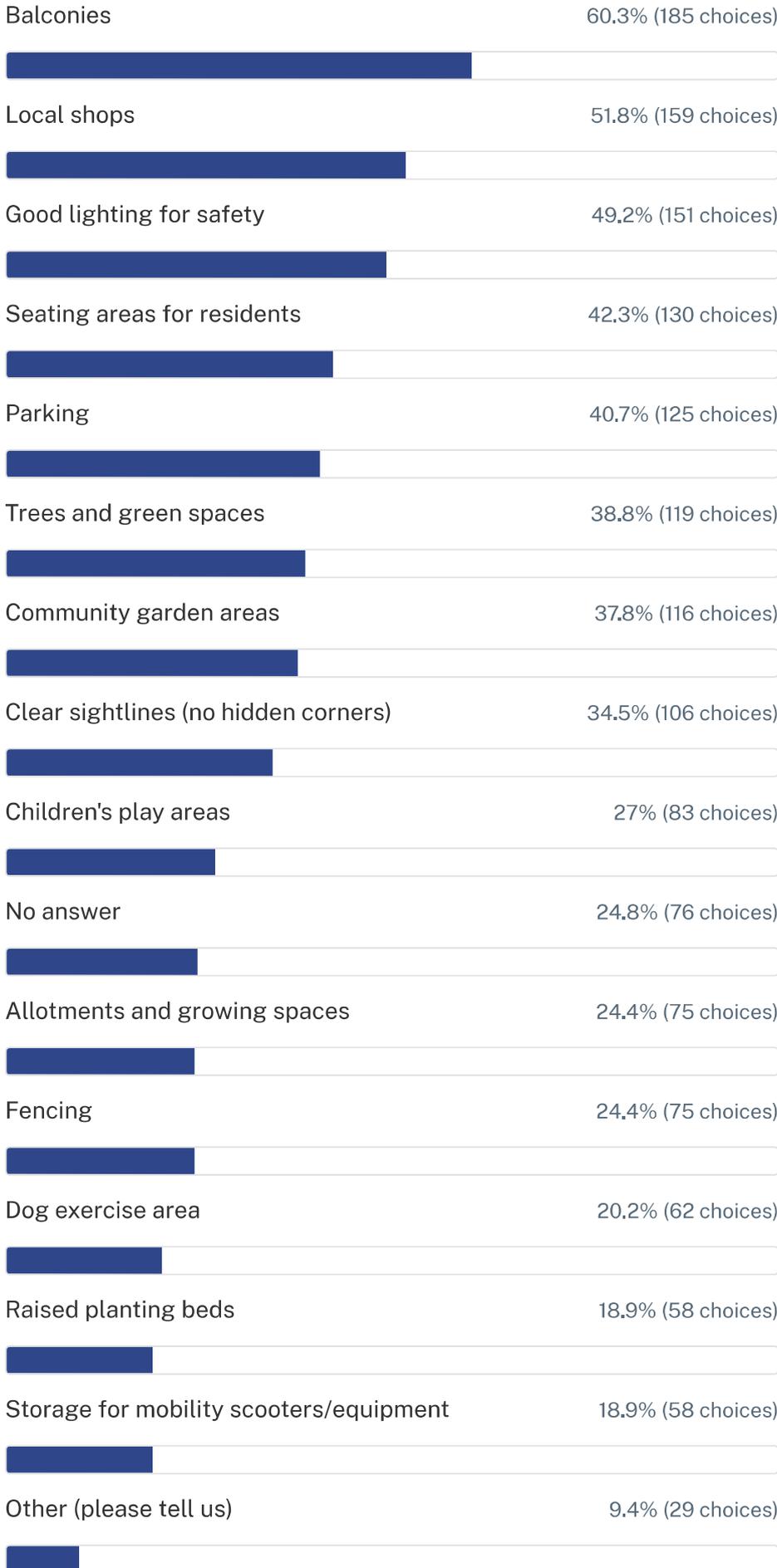
239/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



English

What outdoor spaces and facilities would you want in a new development?

231/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



English

Most respondents emphasised the importance of green spaces, community gardens, and trees, with many also requesting balconies and seating areas for residents. Allotments and growing spaces were mentioned frequently, as were facilities for dog exercise and storage for mobility scooters/equipment.

Safety was a recurring theme, with several respondents highlighting the need for good lighting, clear sightlines, and fencing to prevent hidden corners. Some expressed concerns about seating and scaffolding attracting rough sleepers or drug users.

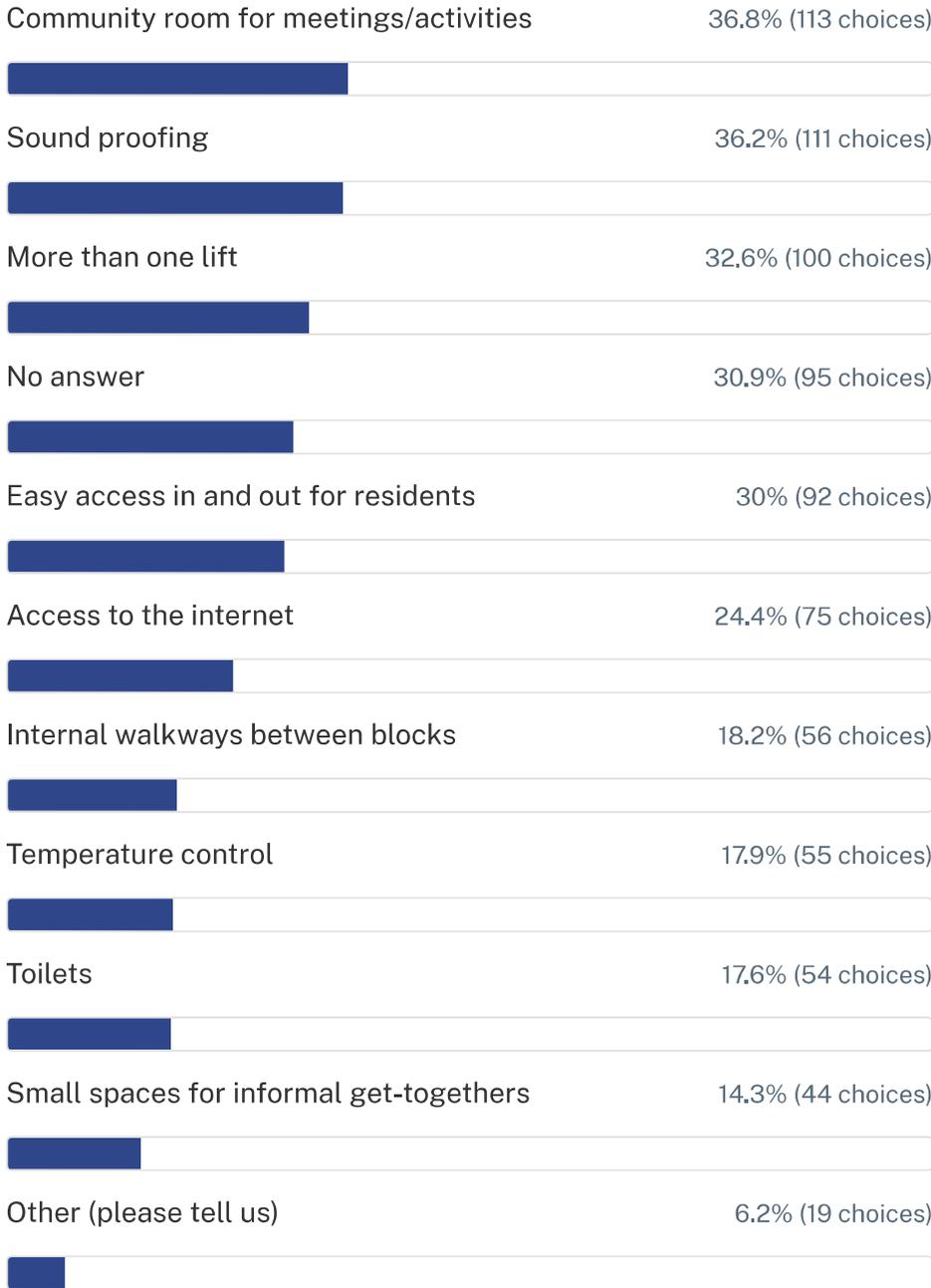
Parking, including specific requests for disability parking and dedicated allotments for parking, was also mentioned. Local shops and proximity to amenities were valued, with some wanting developments near markets or the sea.

A few respondents requested features for specific lifestyles or needs, such as laundry rooms/services, modern wiring, compact living spaces, and bird boxes. Several people expressed a preference for higher floors or low-rise buildings with good views or central courtyards.

Overall, the main trends were a strong desire for green, communal, and safe outdoor spaces, practical amenities, and thoughtful design to support a range of resident needs and lifestyles.

What indoor facilities (shared spaces) would be important to you?

212/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



Laundry facilities are the most frequently mentioned shared indoor amenity, with several respondents highlighting their usefulness and social value. Community rooms for meetings and activities, as well as access to the internet, are also highly valued and repeatedly mentioned. Sound proofing and easy, safe access in and out of buildings are common priorities, with some respondents specifically calling for secure access and more than one lift.

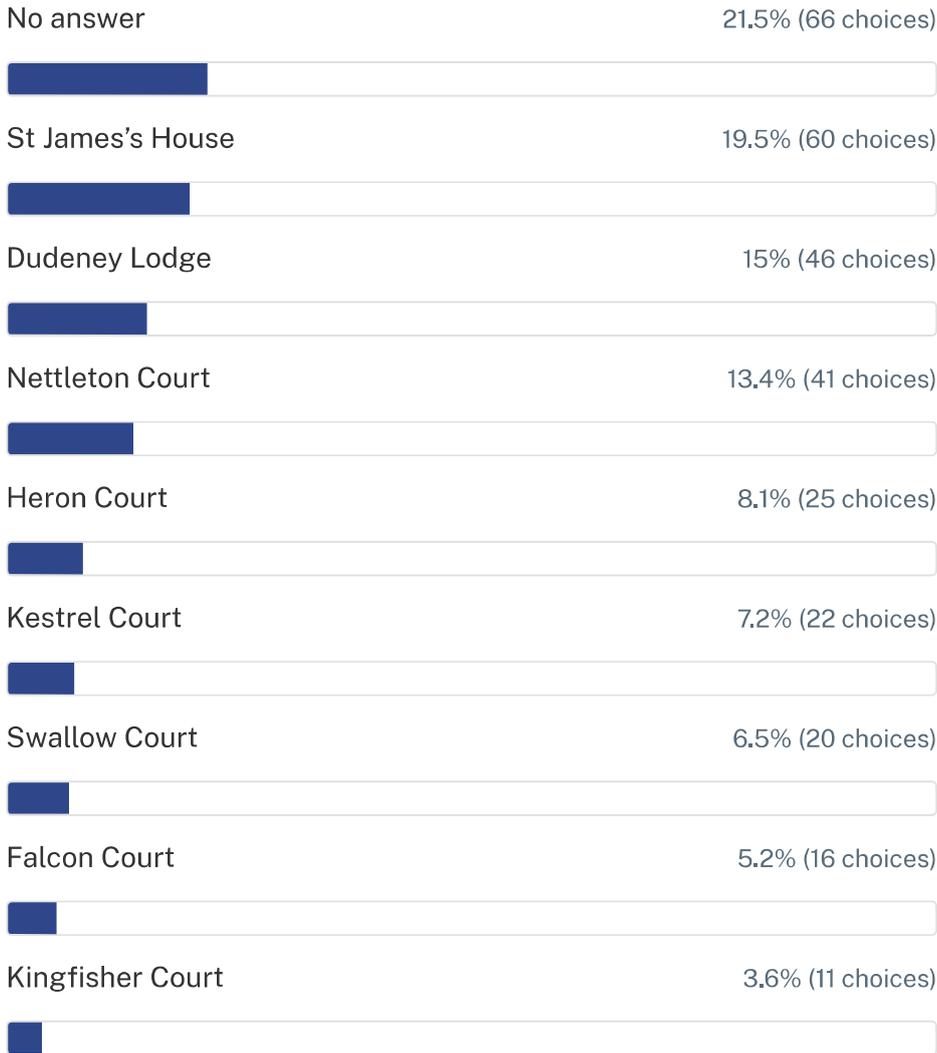
Temperature control, toilets, and small spaces for informal gatherings are noted as desirable by several participants. There is some concern about internal walkways between blocks, with one respondent pointing out that they can cause problems. Service lifts for moving goods and big items are suggested, as well as the need for fibre optic internet in community rooms.

A minority of responses mention specific concerns, such as opposition to 5G towers on rooftops. Overall, the main trends are a strong desire for practical shared amenities (especially laundry), robust internet access, secure and accessible entry, and spaces that foster community in

English

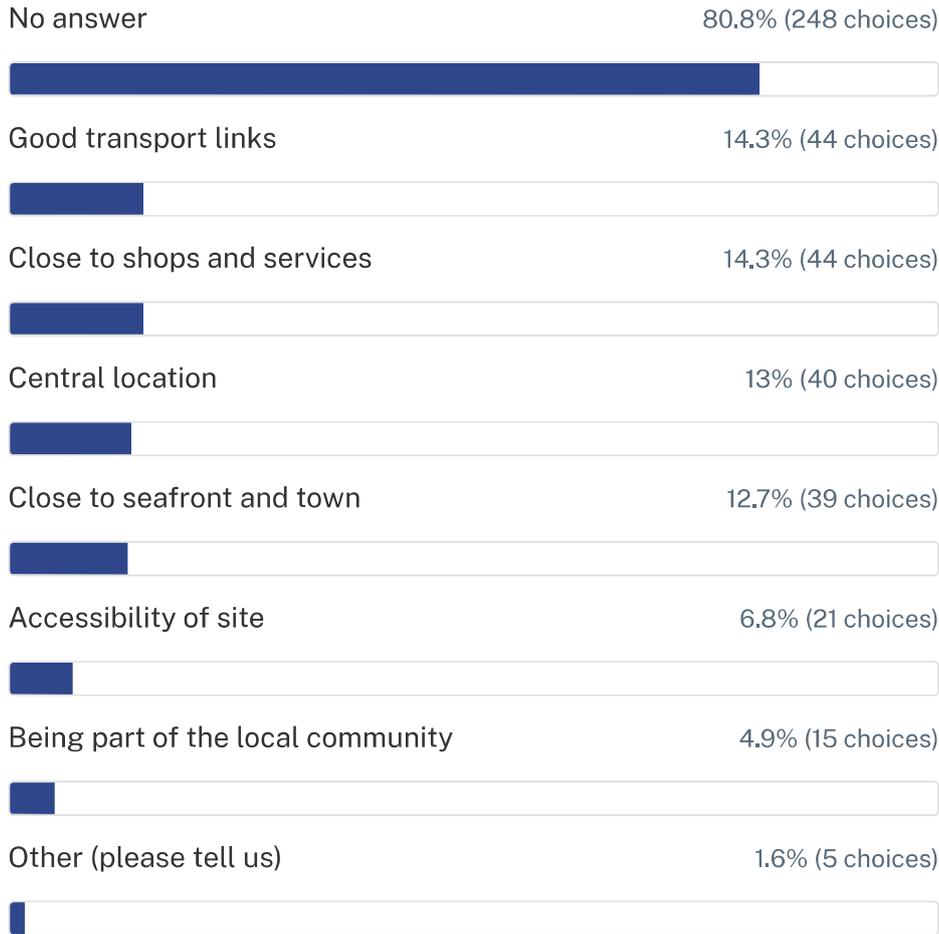
Which block do you live in?

241/307 -Multiple choice-choose one-required



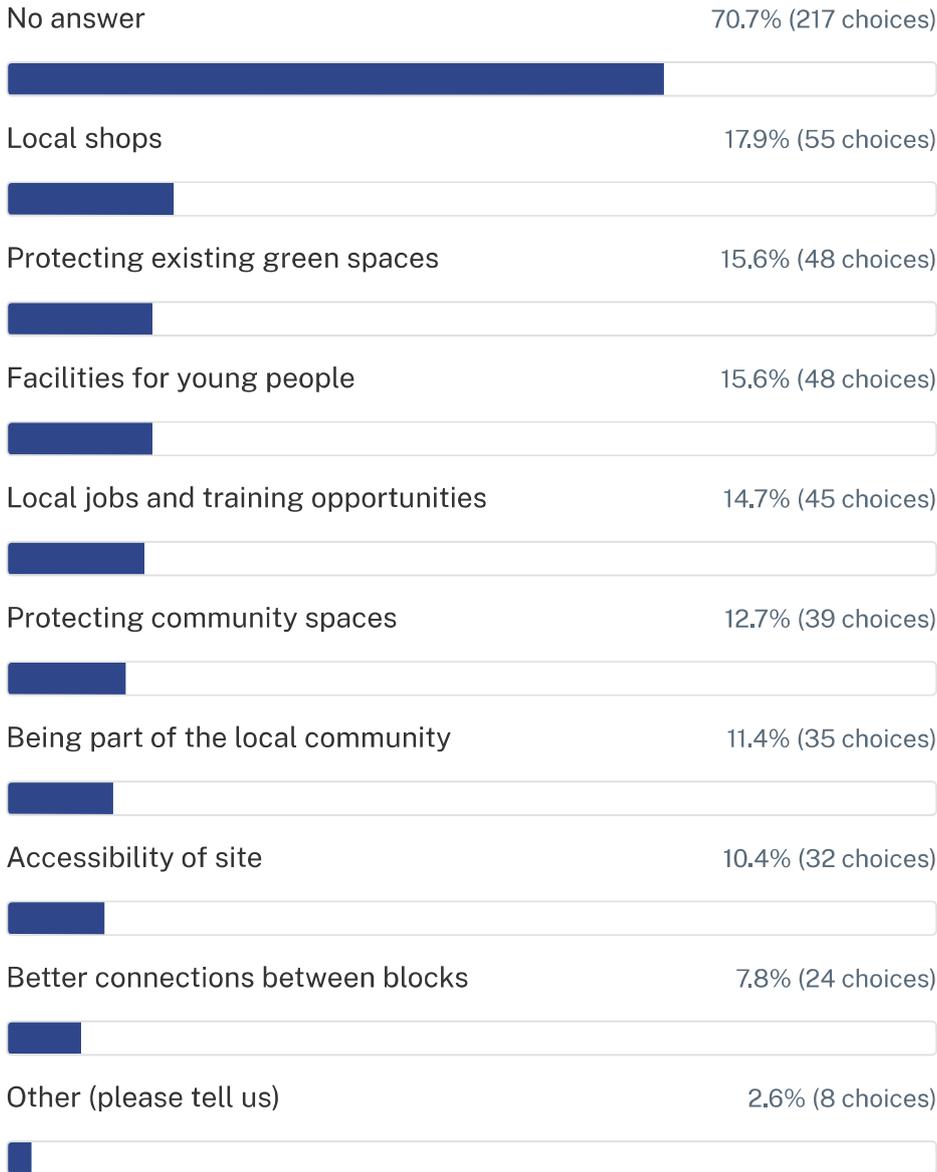
If living in the town centre is important to you, what matters most?

59/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



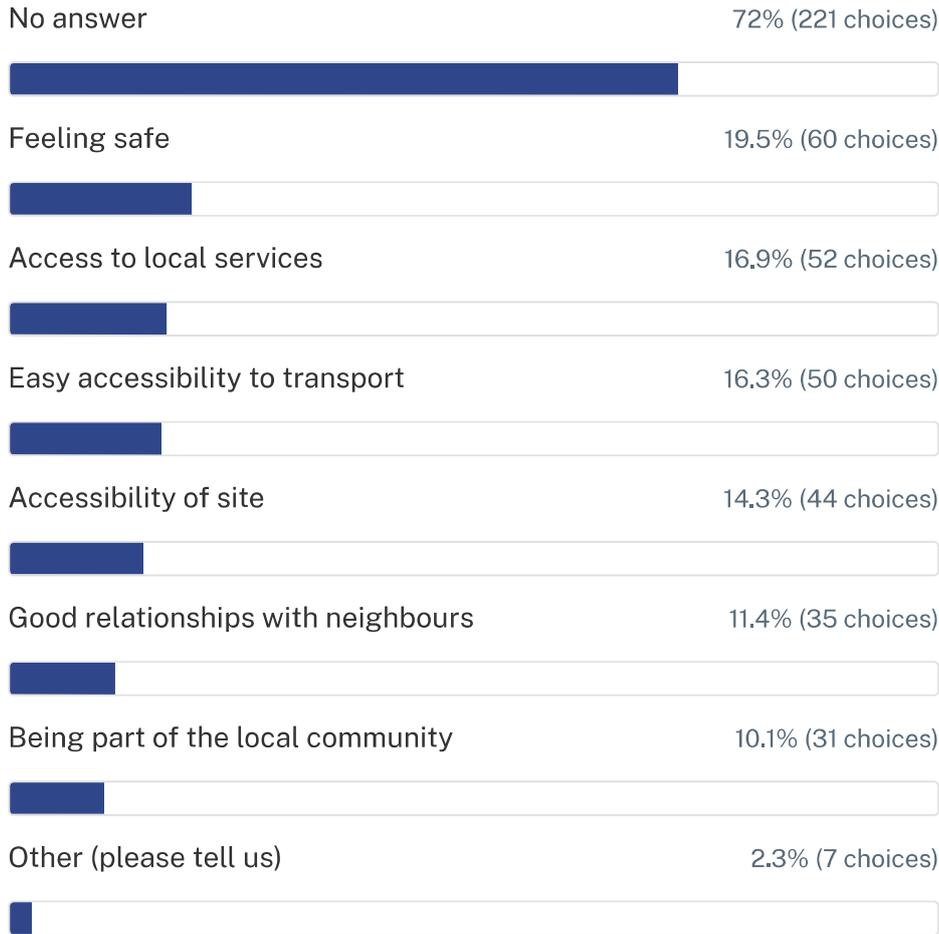
What's important for your area's future?

90/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



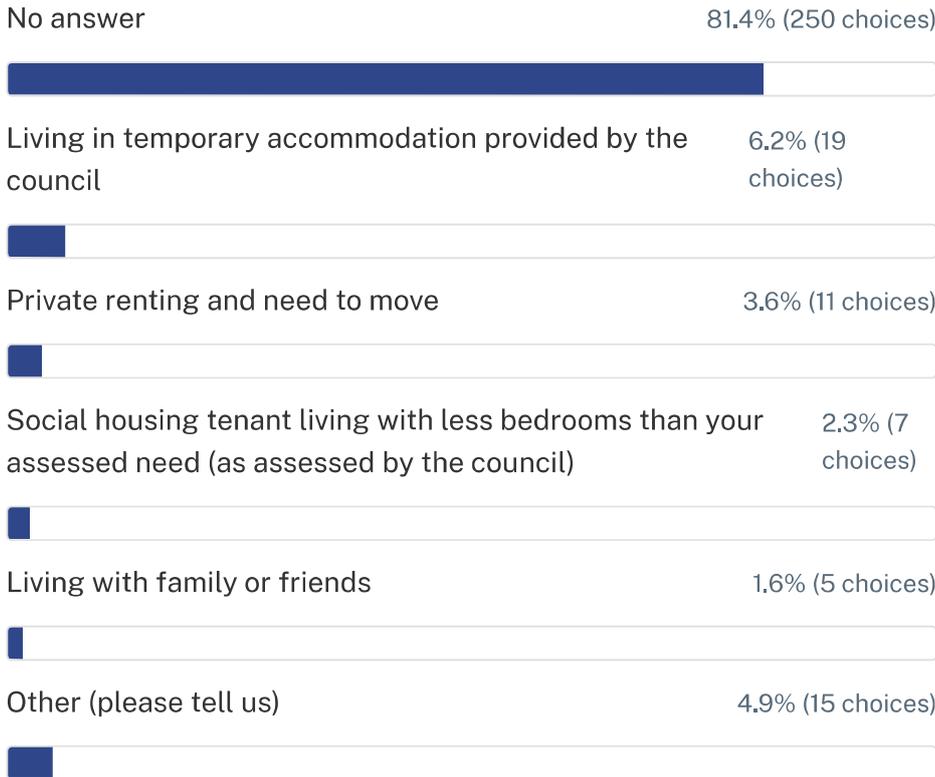
If you want to stay in the area, what matters most?

86/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



What is your current housing situation?

57/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Most respondents highlighted urgent or unmet housing needs, with many indicating they are in unsuitable or precarious situations. The most common themes were:

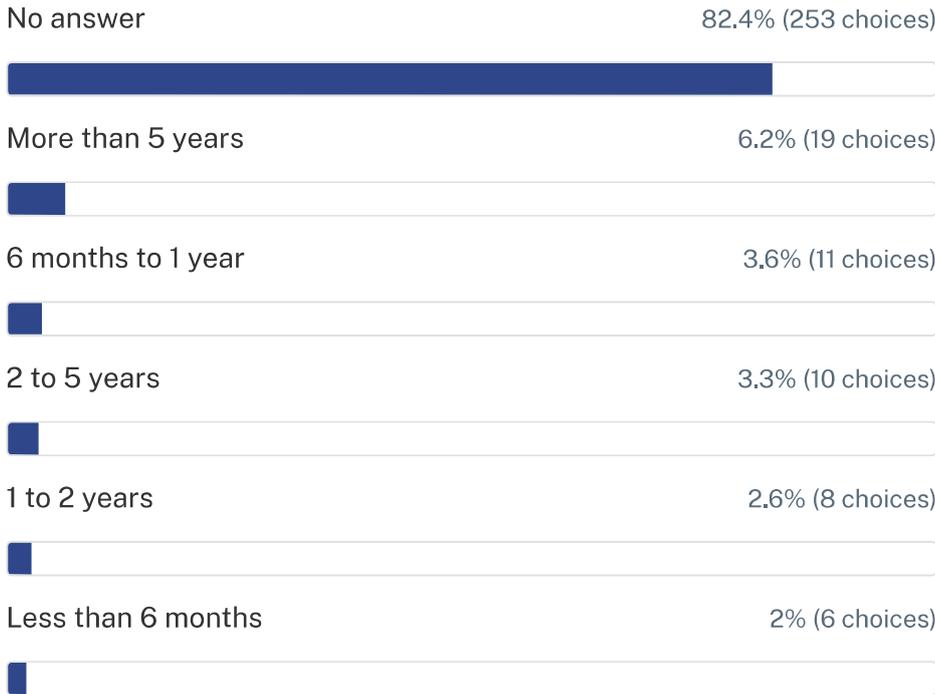
- A significant number are seeking to move due to medical needs or mobility issues.
- Several respondents are in private rented accommodation, often describing it as unaffordable, poor quality, or unsafe.
- Some are living in emergency or supported accommodation, or with parents, indicating a lack of stable, independent housing.
- There are cases of people needing to move due to anti-social behaviour or dangerous situations.
- Long waits for council housing or transfers were mentioned, with frustration over lack of progress and changes to priority status making it even harder to secure suitable housing.
- Downsizing needs and overcrowding were also noted, with some on the housing register due to insufficient bedroom space.

Overall, the responses reflect widespread dissatisfaction with current housing situations, particularly regarding health, safety, affordability, and the effectiveness of the housing allocation system.

English

How long have you been waiting for social housing?

54/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Do you understand why we need to rehouse secure tenants in the eight LPS blocks if they are going to be regenerated?

57/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



English

If you are on the housing register, what do you think the impact of an LLP will be for you?

56/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 81.8% (251 choices)



I will have to wait longer for a property 13% (40 choices)



LPS tenants getting priority over me 11.4% (35 choices)



There being fewer properties available for me to bid on 11.1% (34 choices)



I'm worried about what will happen if there are not enough tenancies to go around while work is being done 9.8% (30 choices)



I may be in temporary accommodation or homeless for longer 7.2% (22 choices)



My family will be living in overcrowded accommodation for longer 3.6% (11 choices)



I will have to wait longer to downsize 0.7% (2 choices)

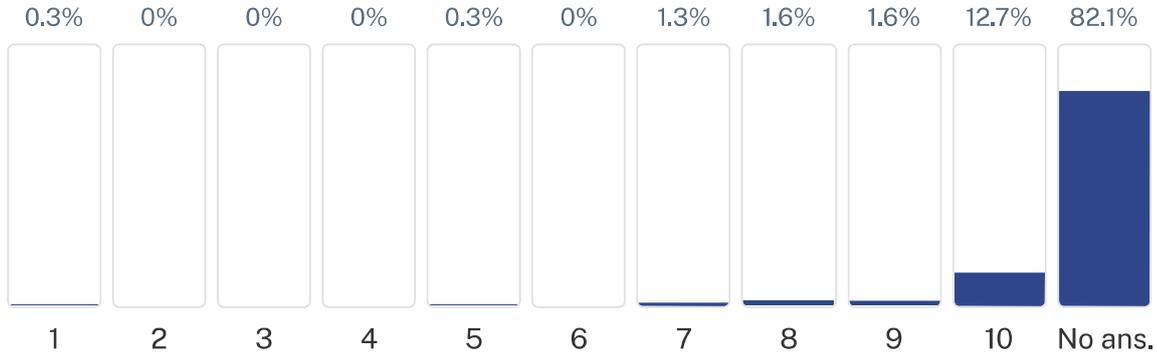


Other (please specify) 1.3% (4 choices)



On a scale of 1 – 10 (1 being no problem 10 being a major problem) – how much will you be impacted by being on the waiting list for a longer time.

55/307 - Linear scale - optional



The Local Lettings Plan is required as we will be legally obliged to rehouse the secure tenants and may have duties to others who live in the blocks. However, we would welcome any suggestions that you might have about how we can minimise the impact on others already or likely to join the waiting list:

53/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



English

Are there any other housing options you would consider to help you move more quickly

44/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 85.7% (263 choices)



Support to move to the private rented sector and help with rent deposit 5.2% (16 choices)



Registering with the Homefinder scheme to help find a social housing property elsewhere in the country (this does not guarantee you an offer of social housing) 3.6% (11 choices)



Talk to my housing provider to see if they can do a management transfer within their housing stock 3.6% (11 choices)



Move into senior's housing or Extra Care Housing (for over 50's) 3.6% (11 choices)



Mutual Exchange or 'swapping tenancies' into another social housing property anywhere in the city or elsewhere 2.6% (8 choices)



Look into low costshared ownership options within the city or 2.3% (7 choices)



Downsize to a smaller property through the council's transfer incentive scheme (TIS). If eligible for TIS, applicants will get an incentive payment based on the number of bedrooms they give up and will be given Band A priority transfer. Moves can be into another registered housing provider's stock. 1% (3 choices)



Different housing providers will have different TIS schemes– check with your landlord for details of their scheme. 0.7% (2 choices)



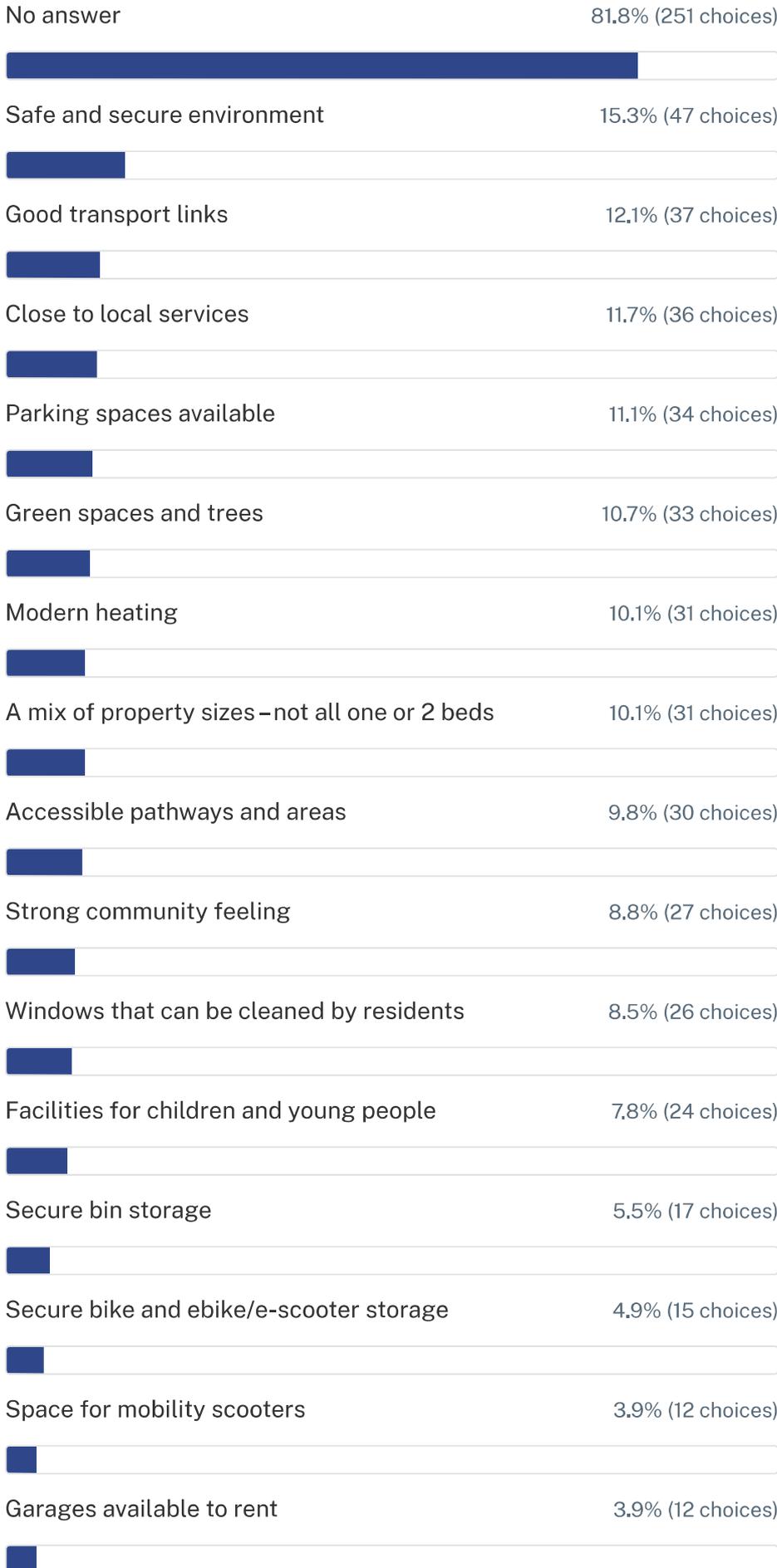
Other (please tell us) 2.3% (7 choices)



English

What would make a new development a great place to live?

56/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



English

Motorcycle spaces or storage 3.3% (10 choices)



Other (please tell us) 1.3% (4 choices)



What local services or amenities are important to you?

54/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

No answer 82.4% (253 choices)



Shops 14.7% (45 choices)



GP and other health facilities, such as dentists 14.3% (44 choices)



Schools and nursery 6.8% (21 choices)



Library 5.9% (18 choices)



Community centre and activities 5.5% (17 choices)



Gym and/or sports facilities 4.9% (15 choices)



Family Hub or community family support groups 3.3% (10 choices)



LGBTQ+ community spaces 2.9% (9 choices)



Cultural groups/centres 1.3% (4 choices)



Places of worship 1% (3 choices)



Faith groups 0.7% (2 choices)



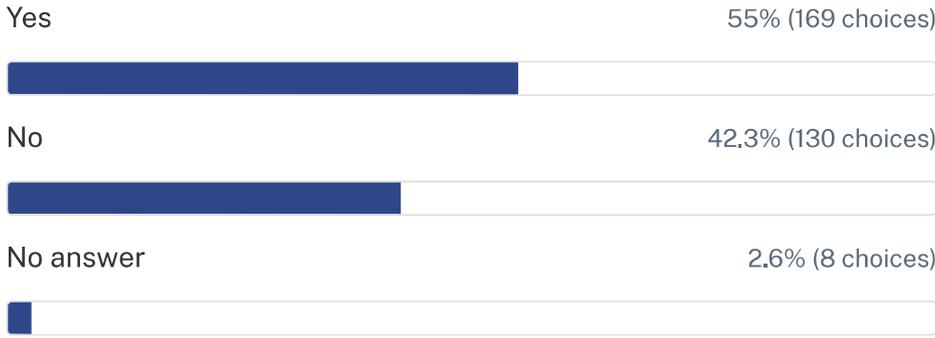
Other (please tell us) 0.7% (2 choices)



English

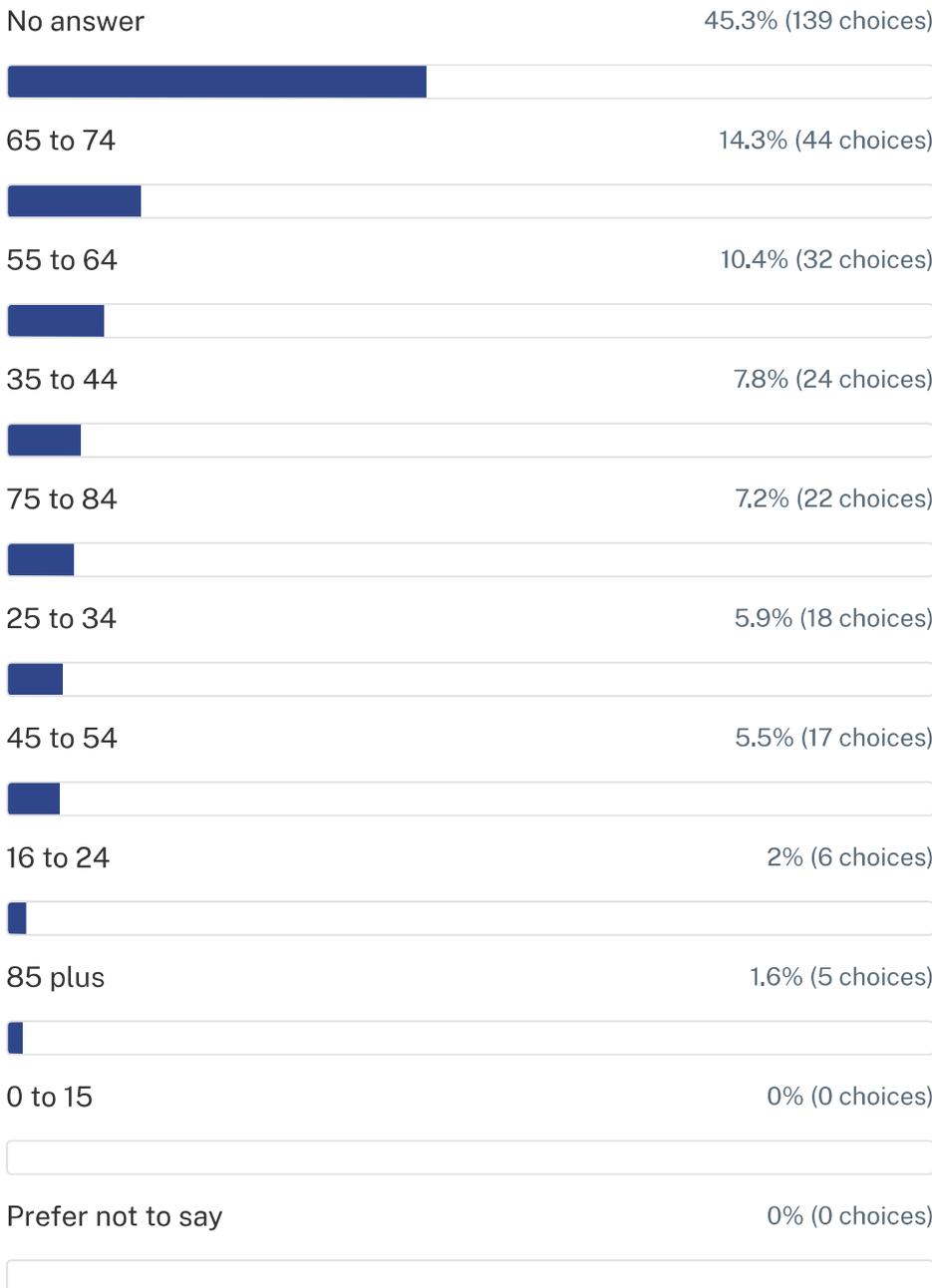
Do you want to answer the following equalities monitoring questions?

299/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



What is your age?

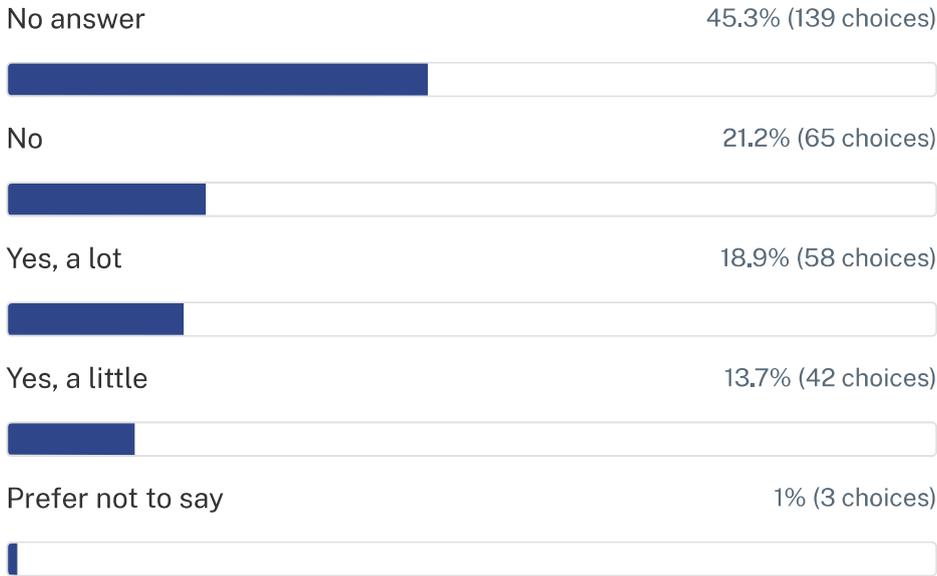
168/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



English

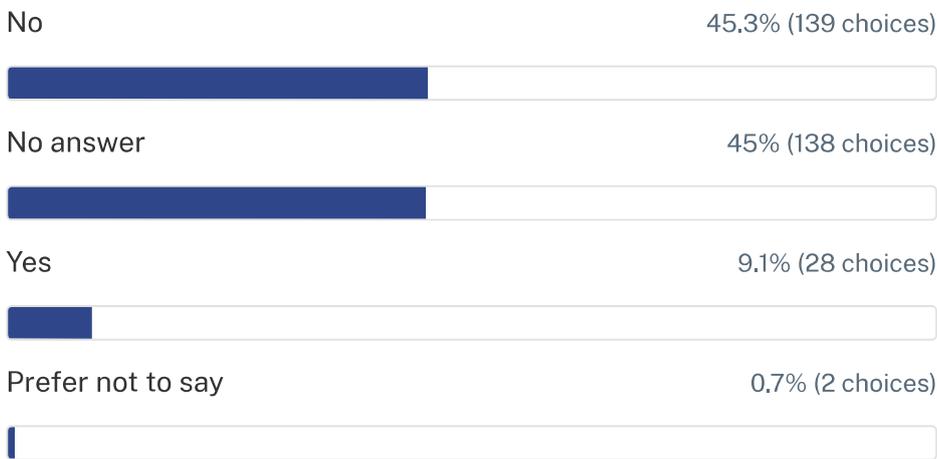
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

168/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



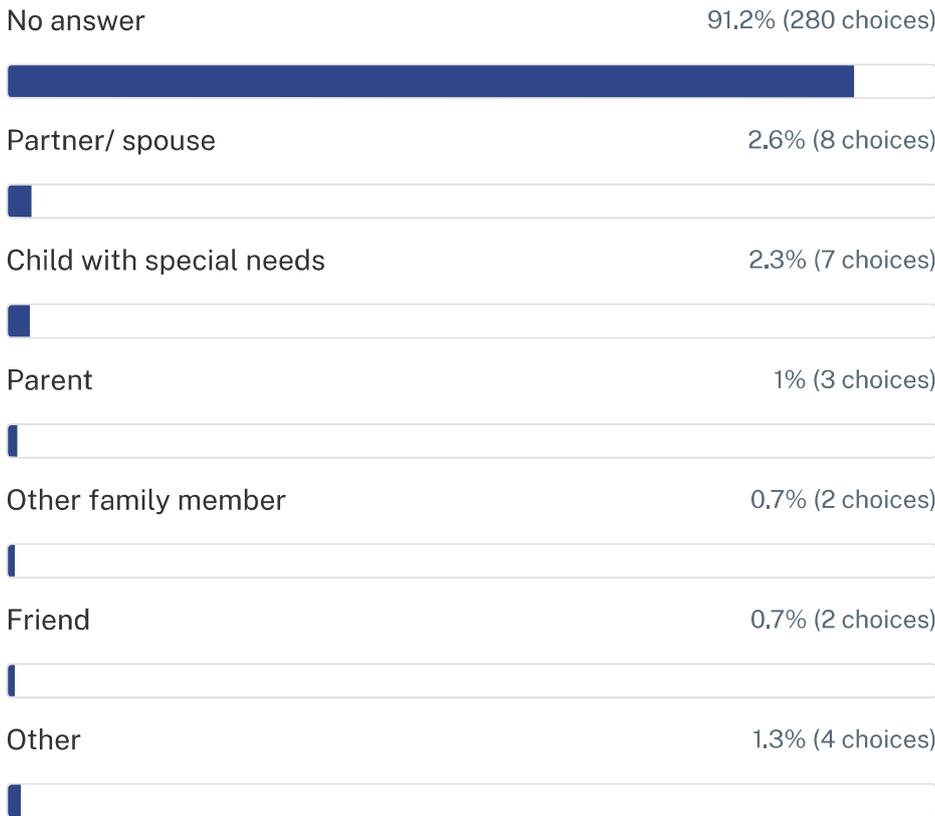
Are you a carer?

169/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



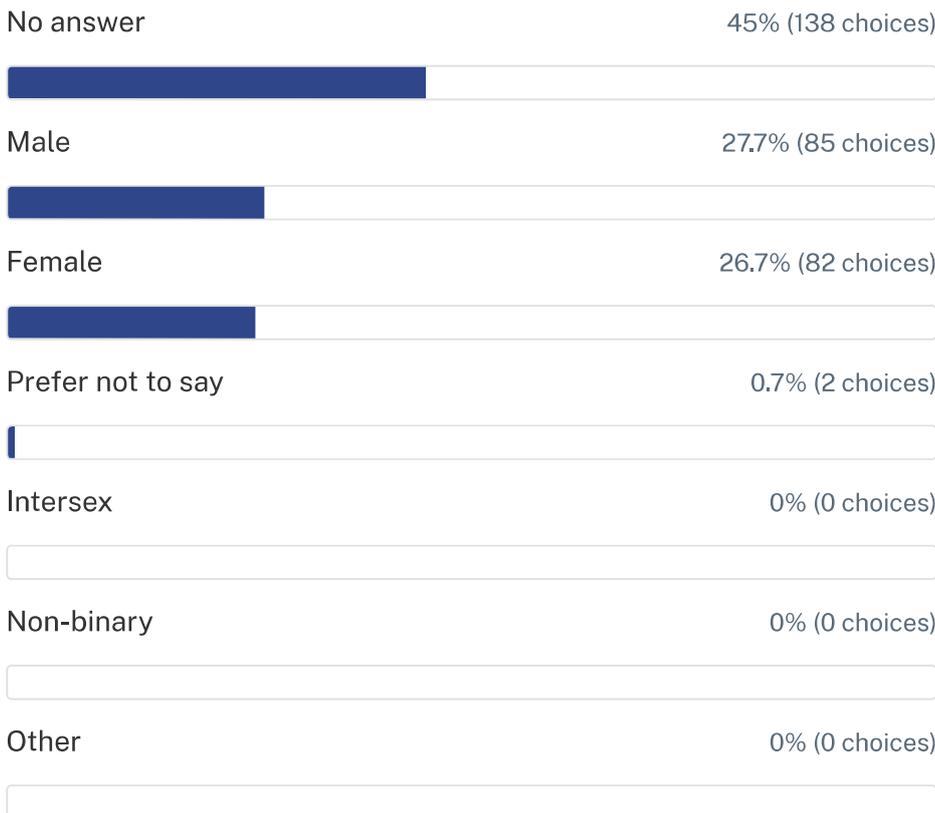
If you answered 'yes' above please state who you care for. If you care for more than one person please tick all that apply. If none apply, please mark Other

27/307 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



What best describes your sex and gender?

169/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



English

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

168/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

Yes 53.1% (163 choices)



No answer 45.3% (139 choices)



Prefer not to say 1.3% (4 choices)



No 0.3% (1 choice)



How would you describe your ethnic origin?

168/307 -Multiple choice-choose one -optional

Asian / Asian British: Chinese 0% (0 choices)

Black / Black British: Caribbean 0% (0 choices)

White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller 0% (0 choices)

White: Irish 0% (0 choices)

Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi 0.3% (1 choice)

Asian / Asian British: Indian 0.3% (1 choice)

Asian / Asian British: Other (please share details below) 0.3% (1 choice)

Black / Black British: Other (please share details below) 0.3% (1 choice)

Mixed: Asian and White 0.3% (1 choice)

Mixed: Black African and White 0.3% (1 choice)

Mixed: Black Caribbean and White 0.3% (1 choice)

Mixed: Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background 0.7% (2 choices)

Other Ethnic Group: Arab 0.7% (2 choices)

Asian / Asian British: Pakistani 0.7% (2 choices)

Black / Black British: African 1.3% (4 choices)

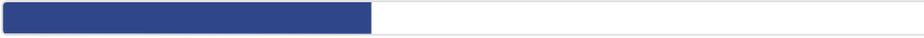
Prefer not to say 1.6% (5 choices)

English

White: Other 5.5% (17 choices)



White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British 39.7% (122 choices)



No answer 45.6% (140 choices)



Other ethnic group, please describe 2% (6 choices)



Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

166/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No answer 45.9% (141 choices)



Heterosexual / 'Straight' 40.7% (125 choices)



Gay man 5.9% (18 choices)



Prefer not to say 3.9% (12 choices)



Bisexual/Bi 1.3% (4 choices)



Asexual 1% (3 choices)



Lesbian / Gay woman 0.7% (2 choices)



Queer 0.3% (1 choice)

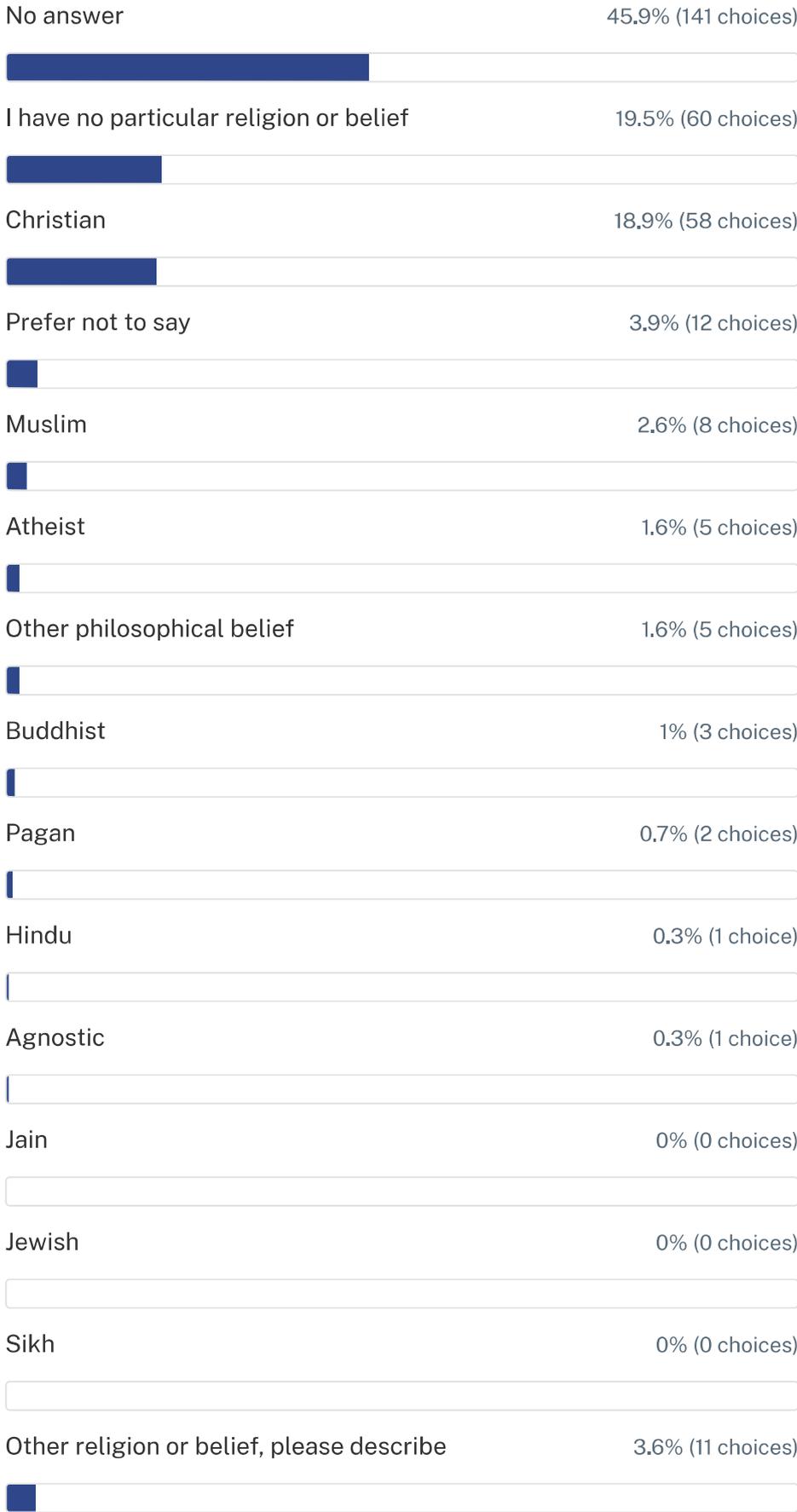


Other, please describe 0.3% (1 choice)



What is your religion or belief?

166/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



English

Most respondents identified as belonging to the Church of England, with this being by far the most frequently mentioned affiliation. A smaller number of respondents stated they had no religion or belief, or explicitly identified as not believing in God. There were also individual mentions of other backgrounds, such as Hare Krishna and a Methodist upbringing without current practice. Overall, the Church of England was the dominant response, with only isolated mentions of other beliefs or non-belief.

What is your legal marital or registered civil partnership status?

141/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No answer 54.7% (168 choices)



Never married and never registered in a civil partnership 16.3% (50 choices)



Divorced 12.4% (38 choices)



Married 8.1% (25 choices)



Widowed 5.2% (16 choices)



In a registered civil partnership 1.3% (4 choices)



Separated but still legally in a civil partnership 1% (3 choices)



Separated but still legally married 0.7% (2 choices)



Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved 0.3% (1 choice)



A surviving member of a legally registered civil partnership 0% (0 choices)



Are you, or have you been, looked after by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14?

166/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No 50.8% (156 choices)



No answer 45.9% (141 choices)



Prefer not to say 1.6% (5 choices)



Yes 1.3% (4 choices)



Don't know 0.3% (1 choice)



Have you previously served in the UK armed forces?

164/307 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

No 51.1% (157 choices)



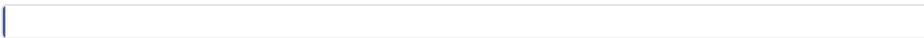
No answer 46.6% (143 choices)



Yes, previously served in regular armed forces 1% (3 choices)



Yes, previously served in reserve armed forces 0.3% (1 choice)



Prefer not to say 0.3% (1 choice)



Other 0.7% (2 choices)



Consultation Report	Consultation on the In-Principle Recommendation to Demolish and Redevelop 8 Large Panel Systems (LPS) Buildings
Date	February 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Housing Act (1985) Section 105, all councils have a legal obligation to consult secure tenants on any proposed changes to the management, maintenance, improvement or demolition of the homes they manage, as well as changes to the provision of services or amenities. In addition, the Council has duty to consult leaseholders, TA and private tenants.
- 1.2 In July 2025 the Council approved, in principle, a recommendation to regenerate all eight LPS buildings, inclusive of demolition of the existing blocks and creation of new housing on the sites.
- 1.3 The 8 LPS buildings are situated across three sites within the city:
- St James’s House in Kempton
 - Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge in Hollingdean
 - Falcon Court, Heron Court, Kestrel Court, Kingfisher Court and Swallow Court in Whitehawk, referred to hereafter as the Whitehawk ‘Bird Blocks’
- 1.4 After Cabinet approved the in-principle recommendation, the Council commenced the required consultation in October 2025, the process of which is detailed under section 2 of this report.
- 1.5 Given the significance of the decisions and in line with the principle of consultation, the Council also included existing Temporary Accommodation households, Seaside Homes households, leaseholders and private sector tenants of leaseholders, within the consultation.
- 1.6 This report provides an overview of the consultation process. Residents across all sites contributed detailed feedback on their homes and the surrounding area, including what they value, the challenges they face, and the indoor and outdoor facilities they would like to see incorporated into any future developments.

2 Consultation Programme Overview

- 2.1 The consultation ran from Monday 13th October 2025 to Monday 12th January 2026. Residents were invited to take part via an online YourVoice survey hosted on the Council’s website, with paper copies available on request, and uploaded manually by officers onto the YourVoice platform. Engagement activities were delivered through multiple channels and were personalised to reflect residents’ varied needs, circumstances and preferences.
- 2.2 Residents were informed of the consultation requirement through monthly resident newsletters, refreshed noticeboards, post boxes at all blocks for

written queries, a dedicated email inbox for direct contact and interpreter-supported appointments.

- 2.3 Residents were also informed via the LPS Resident Advisory Groups that played an active role in shaping the consultation questions and advising on the most effective ways to engage residents, including the use of plain-language materials and alternative engagement routes. These sessions took place with residents on:
- Monday 22nd September 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – St James’s House
 - Wednesday 24th September 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge
 - Thursday 25th September 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – Whitehawk ‘Bird Blocks’
- 2.4 To support participation and gather feedback following the launch of the consultation on Monday 13th October 2025, the Council held a series of consultation and visioning workshops. These sessions took place on:
- Monday 24th November 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – St James’s House
 - Tuesday 25th November 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge
 - Thursday 27th November 2025 (5:30–7:00pm) – Whitehawk ‘Bird Blocks’
- 2.5 In addition, three drop-in engagement sessions were delivered as part of wider Residents’ Days that provided opportunities for residents to complete the survey and speak directly with officers from the wider programme team:
- Monday 1st December 2025 – Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge
 - Wednesday 3rd December 2025 – St James’s House
 - Tuesday 9th December 2025 – Whitehawk
- 2.6 To ensure maximum engagement, two door-knocking campaigns were carried out across all eight blocks. These campaigns offered individual support to residents in completing the survey including interpreter-supported sessions provided on request to residents with language barriers, health needs or anxiety, and accessibility issues, and ensuring equal access to information. These were held on:
- Monday 24th November 2025 to Friday 5th December 2025
 - Thursday 8th January 2026 to Monday 12th January 2026

- 2.7 Feedback gathered through informal conversations at engagement events has also been an important complement to the survey responses. While all residents were encouraged and supported to complete the online survey, it is recognised that some may have chosen not to do so. To ensure all views were captured, key themes arising from these engagement sessions, and through informal conversations with residents were, and will continue to be, recorded and analysed.
- 2.8 The Council places strong importance on all forms of resident feedback and continues to document and retain this information to ensure that residents' views and concerns are clearly understood. Where appropriate, this feedback will inform the ongoing development and refinement of the programme.
- 2.9 In total, the consultation received 312 responses out of 530 householders, representing an overall response rate of 58.8%. The breakdown by site is as follows:
- **St James's House** – 74 responses out of 120 households (61.6% response rate)
 - 64 secure council tenants, 5 temporary accommodation tenants including Seaside Homes, 2 private tenants and 3 leaseholders
 - **Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge** – 100 responses out of 174 householders (57.4% response rate)
 - 88 secure council tenants, 10 temporary accommodation tenants including Seaside Homes and 2 leaseholders
 - **Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks'** – 138 responses out of 236 households (58.4% response rate)
 - 117 secure council tenants, 19 temporary accommodation tenants including Seaside Homes, and 2 leaseholders
- 2.10 Detailed comments and site-specific feedback are provided in section 4 for St James's House, section 5 for Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge, and Section 6 for the Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks'.

3 Consultation & Responses

- 3.1 The following section provides an overview of the consultation responses by site, overall response levels, an analysis of completed questionnaires, and a summary of feedback alongside the Council's comments.
- 3.2 The questionnaire consisted of seven questions. The first six questions applied to all buildings, while the seventh question was tailored to each specific site. The questions were:

- 1) What do you like about your current home and the area?
- 2) What don't you like about your current home and the area?
- 3) Is it clear why refurbishment of the buildings is not the preferred option?
- 4) Is it clear why the preferred option is to knock down the current buildings and replace with new homes?
- 5) What outdoor spaces and facilities would you want in a new development?
- 6) What indoor facilities (shared spaces) would be important to you?
- 7) Site-specific questions:
 - *St James's House*: If living in the town centre is important to you, what matters most?
 - *Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge*: If you want to stay in the area, what matters most?
 - *Whitehawk*: What's important for your area's future?

3.3 All responses were thoroughly reviewed and analysed by the Council. A detailed breakdown of responses by site, including key feedback, is provided in the following sections.

3.4 Given the volume of survey responses and accompanying comments, this report focuses on the top three recommendations for each question on each site. This approach ensures clarity and keeps the report concise, while still reflecting the breadth of feedback received. All responses to the questionnaire have been reviewed by the Council and will continue to inform the programme as it develops.

3.5 It's important to note that some free-text comments may align with options that were available as structured responses in the questionnaire. Where this occurs, these comments have not been reclassified to preserve the integrity of the original feedback. Reviewers should keep this in mind when interpreting figures and percentages presented in this report.

4 St James's House

4.1 What do you like about your current home and the area?

About Your Home	About Your Area
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Size and Layout of Rooms	60	81.1%	Transport Links & Buses	63	85.1%
Balcony or Own Outdoor Space	54	73%	Close to Shops & Services	61	82.4%
View from Windows	47	63.5%	Connection to Seafront/Town Centre	58	78.4%
Heating, Hot Water & Warmth	45	60.8%	Neighbours & Community	50	67.6%
Storage Space Available	41	55.4%	Green Spaces Nearby	47	63.5%
Open Plan or Separate Kitchen	40	54.1%	Safety & Security	42	56.8%
Sound Proofing between Homes	25	33.8%	Parking Available	29	39.2%
Accessibility features	23	31.1%	No Answer	9	12.2%
Other (Please tell us)	7	9.5%	Other (Please tell us)	8	10.8%
No Answer	0	0%			

4.1.1 Other (About Your Home)

- Struggling with the amount of light I have in my flat
- Central boiler system
- Fall risk, so I need level flooring and doors
- Location
- Location is close to work and shops which are essential for my condition. Dedicated parking space required due to mobility issues
- Cheap to run heating and low electricity use. Average cost of running the flat as I will be retiring soon and my income will drop dramatically
- Community, good neighbour relationships, security knowing those around you brings.

4.1.2 Other (About Your Area)

- I love living in this area because I love to walk to Saint Queens Park and Preston Park. Also, I have grandchildren and I love to take them to the Brighton theatre.
- Pub across the road is very noisy
- Parking is a big issue
- Don't like the area it's depressing, run down, and smells of dog mess
- Resident unable to answer as they are struggling with health
- I currently have a garage for storage of my car and extra storage.
- Prior to the scaffolding erected around the building, it was always reassuring that both entrances were open and light to come and go. Unfortunately, this has long gone with the scaffolding staying in place, where it is noticed some residents and many non-residents converge, openly dealing, as well as rough sleepers using as sleep/toileting areas.

4.1.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

- 4.1.4 Residents highlighted several aspects they value about their current homes, particularly the size and layout of the rooms, which were positively rated by

81% of respondents. Many also appreciated having a balcony or private outdoor space (73%) and the views from their windows (63.5%).

4.1.5 The Council recognises residents' strong appreciation for well-designed internal space, including room sizes, layouts, and access to private outdoor space. These priorities will be taken into account as design work progresses, and opportunities to optimise internal layouts, balconies and outlooks will be explored as part of the emerging proposals, where -feasible, taking into consideration the feedback of residents.

4.1.6 Residents also highlighted the significant value of the area's transport links (85.1%), proximity to shops and services (82.4%), and easy access to the seafront and town centre (78.4%). These locational advantages form an important part of the existing neighbourhood and are expected to remain key strengths of the area throughout any future regeneration activity.

4.2 What don't you like about your current home and the area?

About Your Home			About Your Area		
Poor Water Pressure	22	29.7%	Street based antisocial behaviour, such as drugs, rough sleeping	51	68.9%
Not Enough Storage	15	20.3%	Area feels unsafe	26	35.1%
Number of Lifts	15	20.3%	Bins Storage/Rubbish	23	31.1%
Size too Small	15	20.3%	Parking problems	16	21.6%
No Answer	15	20.3%	No Answer	13	17.6%
Damp Issues	14	18.9%	Poor Road cleaning	10	13.5%
Other (Please tell us)	14	18.9%	Problems with Neighbours	9	12.2%
No outdoor space	13	17.6%	No Green Spaces	7	9.5%
Heating Problems	8	10.8%	Other (Please tell us)	7	9.5%
No View or poor view	4	5.4%	Poor Transport Links	3	4.1%
Hard to get in and out	3	4%	Too Far from Shops/Services	2	2.7%
Size too big	1	1.4%			

4.2.1 Other (About Your Home)

- If there are no adaptations, then it could be difficult
- Windows could be better
- Don't like the area
- Block needs more care and looking after
- Living with anxiety, and issues with ASB and others being intimidating
- Ants is a big issue
- Condition the building is now in, and the general look from outside. Antisocial behaviour in the area
- Having to move again
- E scooter issues

- Everything is alright
- No issues
- The state the communal and outside areas are in. Dirty and not cared for.
- Very noisy neighbours above us, nothing gets done when complaints are made, we've been flooded multiple times, and nothing is done. A lot of undesirable people have moved in, and the building now feels unsafe.
- The lifts are small and cannot really accommodate when people are moving in or out of the building. As there are only two lifts that serve all flats, it becomes difficult when one is out of service (happens often) or when someone is trying to load and unload household items and keeps a lift on one floor so inaccessible for others to use. There is no service lift that can be used specifically for this purpose and is bigger to allow easier transportation of large items i.e. couches, tables and beds.

4.2.2 Other (About Your Area)

- I do not particularly like unlike anything in my area at times. We do have some issues with drug dealing that is evident, but overall, I love my place.
- Some neighbours could be a problem
- There is a lot of parking problems, and the bins are exposed
- Need more bins
- Parking is not good at all
- Road cleaning is amazing. Whosoever cleans at chapel street is brilliant.
- Not a child friendly and safe area.

4.2.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

4.2.4 Residents identified several issues with their current homes, most notably poor water pressure, which was raised by nearly 30% of respondents. Concerns were also expressed about insufficient storage space and the number of lifts, each highlighted by around one in five residents.

4.2.5 Water pressure testing will be part of the development process and is acknowledged as a resident concern. The Council will also investigate the amount of storage required with the project team, and two lifts will be required as a minimum to any future buildings.

4.2.6 In relation to the wider area, the most significant concern was street based antisocial behaviour, including drug activity and rough sleeping, reported by almost 69% of respondents. Over a third of residents also felt that the area is unsafe, and around 31% raised issues relating to bins, waste storage and rubbish.

4.2.7 The Council intends to apply Secured by Design (SBD) principles to any future redevelopment, recognising residents' concerns about crime and antisocial behaviour, and feeling unsafe in the area. This approach will inform

considerations around site layout, natural surveillance, lighting and the creation of safe and defensible spaces. Proposals for bin storage will also form part of the design process, and feedback on the limitations of the current arrangements will be considered when developing options for new facilities.

4.3 Is it clear why refurbishment of the buildings is not the preferred option?

Yes	No	No Answer	Comments
65 (87.8%)	6 (8.1%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (2.7%)

Comments

- I would just like to say that this council should have maintained this building for the last 30 years and they have not. They have neglected it.
- Well, it is clear at this point, but had necessary works that have been completed since the LPS block issues were highlighted, (as well as ongoing works continuing), been done when they should have been addressed, perhaps the structure would have fared better over the decades of lack of input.

4.3.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

4.3.2 The majority of residents indicated that they understood why refurbishment is not the preferred option. The Council will continue to provide clear, accessible information as the programme progresses to ensure residents remain fully informed about decisions relating to the buildings.

4.4 Is it clear why the preferred option is to knock down the current buildings and replace with new homes?

Yes	No	No Answer	Comments
68 (91.8%)	3 (4%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (2.7%)

Comments

- The council have not got enough properties anyway to fill in people that are going to have to move. They should've spent it on the building over the last 30 years that we know of and all the money they've spent around this scaffolding that's been for six years. Why? Why is it up anyway. I'm not an architect I don't know what the situation could be but devastation of the surrounding houses and flats in the streets.

- It is too far gone to disagree, but will note that there seems to have been an endless stream of workmen within the building righting works/wiring/fitting of new up to date tech alarm systems, renovation of void flats to re accommodate as temporary use in between the start of decant of original Tenants through until BHCC are ready to proceed with demolition. Many people are puzzled and confused as to why so much money has and continues to be ploughed (literally) into this building.

4.4.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

4.4.2 The majority of residents reported that they understood why demolition and rebuilding is the preferred option. As with the previous question, the Council will continue to provide clear and timely communication throughout the programme, including updates on the ongoing maintenance required for the existing building while regeneration plans are developed.

4.5 What outdoor spaces and facilities would you want in a new development?

Balconies	56	75.7%
Local Shops	44	59.5%
Parking	44	59.5%
Good lighting for Safety	43	58.1%
Clear Sightlines (no hidden corners)	32	43.2%
Seating areas for residents	32	43.2%
Community Garden Areas	30	40.5%
Trees and Green Spaces	29	39.2%
Children's Play Areas	24	32.4%
Allotments & Growing Spaces	19	25.7%
Dog Exercise Area	19	25.7%
Storage for Mobility Scooters/Equipment	19	25.7%
Fencing	16	21.6%
Raised Planting Beds	15	20.3%
Other (Please tell us)	6	8.1%
No Answer	3	4.1%

Comments

- I want a laundry room.
- Specific allotments for parking

- Scaffolding attracts rough sleepers
- Need to be careful where seating is placed as this could attract drug users and rough sleepers
- No fencing as it's easier for junkies to use it for anti-social activities behind the car park areas. The working dogs should be allowed but not the big ones. I don't think there should be balconies above the sixth floor, and I don't think young kids should be above the sixth floor as well because of windows not locking properly they could lean against it and they're out the window. 1st /2nd floor has flexed adapted for disabilities so you haven't got the problem if there's anything happens getting people from wheelchairs and all that floors above whereas they can be carried from two floors.
- We love dogs, but any new development needs to consider who keeps animals, especially those that bring in dogs and be accountable for keeping all communal areas clear and clean from mess. Hence not thinking a dog exercise area a good idea.

4.5.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

4.5.2 The Council recognises the strong value residents place on balconies at St James's House. As design work progresses, opportunities to incorporate balconies and enhance outlooks will be explored where feasible as well as including private amenity space on ground floors. The site benefits from attractive long range- views across the surrounding area, and this feedback will help inform how future design proposals consider building orientation, height, and layout to maximise natural light and outlook where possible.

4.5.3 Residents also highlighted the importance of the local amenities available within the Kemptown area, noting the convenience of shops and services within easy walking distance of the site. The Council acknowledges the significance of this accessibility for many households. Consideration of parking provision will form part of any future design process, and resident feedback on current parking challenges will be taken into account. The Council will also explore potential approaches to supporting sustainable travel and ensuring appropriate provision for future development.

4.6 What indoor facilities (shared spaces) would be important to you?

Community Room for Meetings/Activities	39	52.7%
Access to the internet	34	45.9%

Sound Proofing	33	44.6%
Easy Access in and out for residents	28	37.8%
Internal walkways between blocks	24	32.4%
More than One Lift	23	31.1%
Toilets	21	28.4%
Temperature Control	18	24.3%
Small spaces for informal get-togethers	11	14.9%
No Answer	6	8.1%
Other (Please tell us)	6	8.1%

Comments

- Service lifts to move goods and big items. Also, not only easy access but safe access
- Laundry room in the blocks
- A set of lifts
- Cable the community room up with fibre optic
- Retaining the laundry room as it brings people together

4.6.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

4.6.2 The Council acknowledges residents' interest in having shared spaces that support community interaction. As part of the design development process, options for a community room or alternative forms of communal space will be explored to understand what could be appropriate for the site and responsive to residents' needs, noting also the importance residents place on internet access.

4.6.3 In addition, sound insulation within any new buildings would be required to meet current building regulation standards, helping to reduce noise transfer and improve overall living conditions.

4.7 If living in the town centre is important to you, what matters most?

Good Transport Links	61	82.4%
Close to Shops & Services	58	78.4%
Close to Seafront & Town	56	75.7%
Central Location	54	73%
Accessibility of Site	27	36.5%
Being Part of Local Community	24	32.4%
Other (Please tell us)	5	6.8%
No Answer	1	1.4%

Comments

- Need to be close to friends
- Close to family and friends
- Work and family are both close
- We've lived here for 30 years and are in our 70s. The area is our home, and we'd like to stay. We need somewhere where we can walk to shops that aren't a long way away from anything. I like to be somewhere I can walk and relax, go do my shopping, and be close to my grandkids so I can have them near me - if I'm elsewhere I don't drive, so I need to be somewhere where I can get to the places quickly.
- Close to work essential due to chronic fatigue and dislocations

4.7.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

4.7.2 Residents highlighted the strong benefits of the surrounding area, particularly its excellent transport connectivity, central location and ease of access to shops, services and the seafront. Kemptown also provides a varied range of independent shops, cafés and amenities, which many residents value as part of their daily lives.

4.7.3 The Council recognises the importance of these features in supporting residents' wellbeing and independence. As the regeneration proposals develop, consideration will be given to how new buildings and public spaces can complement and integrate with the character of the wider neighbourhood, helping to maintain the strengths of the existing area and support the continued vibrancy of the local community.

4.8 Conclusion:

4.8.1 While many of the concerns raised relate to long-standing building and environmental issues, residents demonstrated a strong grasp of why

refurbishment is not being pursued and why redevelopment is considered the most viable route forward.

4.8.2 Taken together, the feedback provides a clear picture of what matters most to residents at St James’s House: a well-connected location, homes that are comfortable and practical, and a neighbourhood where people feel safe.

4.8.3 This insight will play an important role in shaping the next stage of design work and future engagement, ensuring that any proposals respond directly to the priorities residents have identified and support a safer, more resilient living environment over the long term.

5 Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge

5.1 What do you like about your current home and the area?

About Your Home			About Your Area		
Size and Layout of Rooms	85	85%	Transport Links & Buses	80	80%
View from Windows	72	72%	Close to Shops & Services	68	68%
Balcony or Own Outdoor Space	68	68%	Connection to Seafront/Town Centre	60	60%
Heating, Hot Water & Warmth	59	59%	Safety & Security	56	56%
Open Plan or Separate Kitchen	46	46%	Green Spaces Nearby	46	46%
Storage Space Available	29	29%	Neighbours & Community	45	45%
Accessibility features	21	21%	Parking Available	24	24%
Sound Proofing between Homes	19	19%	No Answer	12	12%
Other (Please tell us)	8	8%	Other (Please tell us)	8	8%
No Answer	3	3%			

5.1.1 Other (About Your Home)

- I love where I live
- Electric door provided and shower
- Quiet
- No storage space not a lot of electric sockets
- It's what I've known for the last 15 years, and I'm confident and comfortable with everything this place offers & gives me.
- I've lived in Brighton since 1990. My neighbours are nice, and my flat is spacious. I love the views, and I love having a balcony for my plants.
- I'm quite happy here. Some dubious characters but I keep myself to myself.
- I'm on a well-served local bus route.

5.1.2 Other (About Your Area)

- Garden, Trees & Grounds
- Mobility scooter storage
- Visitor parking

- Safety is an issue - I never locked the door when I moved in 20 years ago, but now I have drug dealers living on my floor
- Drug users in the block
- Member of the gym in town, so I must be in reasonable distance
- Gardens and community
- The community and people I meet on the school run

5.1.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.1.4 Residents identified a number of positive features within their current homes, with the size and layout of the rooms standing out as the most appreciated (85% of respondents). Many also appreciated the views from their windows (72% of respondents), and having access to a balcony or private outdoor space (68% of respondents).

5.1.5 The Council recognises the importance residents place on well-designed internal spaces, including generous room sizes, thoughtful layouts and access to private outdoor areas. These priorities will inform the development of future design options, and opportunities to enhance internal configuration, outdoor space provision and overall outlook will be explored where feasible, taking into account the feedback received through this consultation.

5.1.6 Residents also emphasised the strengths of the local area, particularly its strong transport connections (80%), the convenience of nearby shops and services (68%), and its close relationship with the seafront and wider city centre (60%). These established locational advantages are regarded as key attributes of the neighbourhood and are expected to remain important features throughout any future regeneration activity.

5.2 What don't you like about your current home and the area?

About Your Home			About Your Area		
No Answer	40	40%	No Answer	37	37%
Other (Please tell us)	22	22%	Street based antisocial behaviour, such as drugs, rough sleeping	34	34%
Not Enough Storage	21	21%	Other (Please tell us)	17	17%

Damp Issues	7	7%	Bins Storage/Rubbish	16	16%
Number of Lifts	6	6%	Area feels unsafe	13	13%
Size too Small	6	6%	Problems with Neighbours	10	10%
Heating Problems	5	5%	Parking problems	7	7%
Hard to get in and out	4	4%	No Green Spaces	4	4%
No outdoor space	4	4%	Poor Road cleaning	3	3%
No View or poor view	4	4%	Too Far from Shops/Services	2	2%
Poor Water Pressure	3	3%	Poor Transport Links	1	1%
Size too big	1	1%			

5.2.1 Other (About Your Home)

- Noise transmission from nearby flats & City Clean/Recycling
- Sound proofing
- Security
- Noise
- Plumbing
- Would prefer the block to be 50 plus like it used to be.
- Parcels are stolen from outside your door
- Nothing, perfect for 20 years
- Dogs, too many in the block
- Barking dogs, smell and loud noise
- Nothing
- Would prefer to be lower
- Nothing
- Love my home
- The bath
- Dust from the rubbish dump
- Noise
- Nothing I don't like
- Being knocked down
- lack of soundproofing, noisy
- No longer feels safe
- can be noisy sometimes especially when stormy

5.2.2 Other (About Your Area)

- Hill from centre a small pest
- Noise from neighbours
- Have more disability parking
- Too many dogs in the block- dog poo everywhere
- Having a fear of the lights going out
- Don't like the depot next door
- Drug gangs

- Not something I don't like
- Churchill' square too busy
- Sometimes you get odd noises
- Dogs barking and pee in life, visitors misbehaving
- Area works well for me
- When moved in two years ago, my e bike was stolen in a minute.
- No, I love living here
- Noisy at times
- Too many high builds
- I don't like big dogs being locked in these small homes. This is a crime. This should be considered when making new homes

5.2.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.2.4 40% of residents reported no concerns about their current home. Among those who did highlight issues, 21% felt that storage space is insufficient. This is an important consideration for many households, and the Council will explore how storage provision could be improved as part of any future development work.

5.2.5 Approximately 22% of residents provided additional comments through the free text section, where noise emerged as one of the most frequently mentioned issues. As noted at section 4.6.3, any new buildings would be required to meet current building regulation standards for sound insulation, helping to reduce noise transfer and support improved living conditions.

5.2.6 37% of respondents reported no concerns about the area, though street based antisocial behaviour, such as drugs, rough sleeping was highlighted as a concern by 34%, and 17% of respondents provided comments that broadly relate to noise an antisocial behaviour.

5.2.7 The Council intends to address these resident concerns through Secure by Design (SBD) principles as part of any potential construction phases to provide a proactive approach to these issues by integrating security measures directly into the layout and physical fabric of buildings and their surroundings. Any new developments will also be required to adhere to building regulation standards for noise insulation.

5.3 Is it clear why refurbishment of the buildings is not the preferred option?

Yes	No	No Answer	Comments
91 (91%)	5 (5%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)

option?

Comments

- I'm still not convinced that there are no viable options. As stated, the Labour government came into power with a clear agenda to increase social housing and has directed all local authorities accordingly. Given that Brighton has a Labour majority, this decision appears politically aligned. However, I believe the buildings in question still have at least 10 years of life. They are not falling apart, and there are no clear signs of dilapidation. A significant amount has already been spent on doors and alarms etc and all such measures intended to keep us safe while we live here. It's difficult to accept the notion that safety is a priority when so much money is spent on these features, yet essential services like the NHS continue to be underfunded.
- Due to what happened years back to similar buildings it's good to redevelop and make it more modern.
- Yes, thank you to your helpful team of Sam and Hemangi for explaining clearly in simple words.

5.3.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.3.2 Most residents indicated that they were clear about why refurbishment is not the preferred option, which is a testament to the ongoing efforts to engage with all residents. The Council will maintain a commitment to clear and timely communication throughout the next stages of the programme so that residents remain fully informed about any decisions relating to the buildings.

5.4 Is it clear why the preferred option is to knock down the current buildings and replace with new homes?

Yes	No	No Answer	Comments
88 (88%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)	5 (5%)

Comments

- No, it is not entirely clear why demolition is the preferred option. The structures appear to be in usable condition, with no obvious signs of severe dilapidation. In fact, recent investments in safety features such as new doors and alarms suggest that the buildings were deemed safe for continued occupancy. Demolition should be a last resort, not the default, especially when the buildings still have years of viable use and residents feel their voices have not been adequately heard.
- I think you should consider leaving them as they are for a little while longer. Obviously, they will continue to degrade, and they will have to be knocked down, but I don't think that's unsafe, so I've been trying to leave them for awhile
- I would prefer it if the block was to stay
- We believe the building is still in good condition, especially considering the large amount of money recently spent on alarm systems, safety improvements and replacing the doors. Moving all residents would be very difficult and would cause a lot of disruption for people. Instead of demolition, it would be better to explore other options to upgrade the safety and improve the existing building rather than tearing it down.
- Would have helped if you also had put in a plan where you are putting us

5.4.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.4.2 The majority of residents also indicated that they were clear as to why the preferred option is to knock down the current buildings and replace with new homes. The Council will maintain a commitment to clear and timely communication throughout the next stages of the programme so that residents remain fully informed about any decisions relating to the buildings. Reflecting on the free text comments, communication will include updates on existing building management to provide comfort and reassurance to existing residents.

5.5 What outdoor spaces and facilities would you want in a new development?

Balconies	76	76%
Good lighting for Safety	66	66%
Local Shops	63	63%
Trees and Green Spaces	59	59%
Seating areas for residents	58	58%
Clear Sightlines (no hidden corners)	52	52%
Community Garden Areas	45	45%
Parking	43	43%
Fencing	34	34%
Allotments & Growing Spaces	31	31%
Storage for Mobility Scooters/Equipment	29	29%
Raised Planting Beds	28	28%
Children's Play Areas	23	23%
Dog Exercise Area	21	21%
Other (Please tell us)	15	15%
No Answer	6	6%

Comments

- Clear dog areas
- Quiet and high up
- Disability parking
- Laundry service, Swift bird boxes, compost bins
- Closer to the sea
- Would like to live in any floor above... I feel very claustrophobic so would want to live in top floors to have a good view and quality of life

- More modern wiring system
- Ground floor and near the marketplace
- Low rise priorities that look on to a central courtyard
- Compact place for living. if it's smaller can manage it better
- None as I'm not fussy
- Fountain in a community area
- Whatever we have now should all be included. If the flats could be of similar size, that would be amazing
- Laundry room
- Balcony if it's high rise. Had hip replacement, so difficult for me to get in and out of bath. It will be good to have shower. I am always worried about falling and as I live all by myself, I dread tipping.

5.5.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.5.2 Residents collectively valued balconies (76% of respondents), good lighting for safety (66% of respondents), and Local Shops as their top three priorities.

5.5.3 Balconies continue to be a strong priority for residents across all three sites. While previous Council-led developments have often incorporated balconies, any future inclusion will be explored through the design process, taking into account site constraints and the value residents place on the existing views from the buildings. In relation to lighting and safety, the Council intends to apply Secured by Design (SBD) principles to any future redevelopment. These principles will guide considerations around site layout, natural surveillance, lighting and the creation of safe and defensible spaces.

5.5.4 The Council will continue to explore all reasonable options for the site as plans progress, recognising the importance residents place on being close to local shops, as identified in the feedback. The site benefits from strong transport connections to the city centre and wider area, ensuring continued access to shops, services and other local amenities.

5.6 What indoor facilities (shared spaces) would be important to you?

Sound Proofing	53	53%
Community Room for Meetings/Activities	49	49%
More than One Lift	48	48%
Easy Access in and out for residents	42	42%
Access to the internet	33	33%
Temperature Control	30	30%

Small spaces for informal get-togethers	25	25%
Internal walkways between blocks	22	22%
Toilets	22	22%
No Answer	17	17%
Other (Please tell us)	9	9%

Comments

- Laundry service is quite useful
- Internal walkways between blocks do cause problems
- Laundry service
- No 5g towers on the top of the blocks
- Laundrette
- Secure access to buildings
- Community room with kitchen is ideal, and have some social do to meet with people
- Gym
- Laundry room

5.6.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.6.2 Residents identified several priorities for indoor facilities, with soundproofing (53%), a community room for meetings and activities (49%) and the provision of more than one lift (48%) emerging as the most valued features.

5.6.3 Any new buildings would be required to meet current building regulation standards for sound insulation, which aim to reduce noise transfer and improve living conditions. In addition, new developments of this scale must include a minimum of two lifts, which would be incorporated into future design proposals.

5.6.4 The Council acknowledges residents' interest in having shared spaces that support community interaction. As part of the design development process, options for a community room or alternative forms of communal space will be explored to understand what could be appropriate for the site and responsive to residents' needs.

5.7 If you want to stay in the area, what matters most?

Feeling Safe	68	68%
Access to Local Services	59	59%
Easy Accessibility to Transport	58	58%
Accessibility of Site	51	51%
Good Relationships with Neighbours	41	41%
Being Part of the Local Community	38	38%
Other (Please tell us)	7	7%
No Answer	3	3%

Comments

- Access to my family. All my children live around. Happy to go to Moulsecoomb as my son lives there
- Localised and not too much of uphill.
- GP's
- My most important things are to be close to pharmacy, GP and a local shop,
- School and children's activities
- Close to job
- There are lot of services around and it's easy to get to the town with the kind of transport available. Since I can't walk up the hill, the present bus link is good for me.

5.7.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

5.7.2 Residents prioritised wanting to feel safe (68%), having access to local services (59%) and accessibility to transport (58%). As previously mentioned, the Council intends to adopt Secured by Design (SBD) principles to any future redevelopment to ensure residents feel safe in their own homes. Fortunately, the site benefits from strong transport connections to the city centre and wider area, ensuring continued access to local amenities.

5.8 Conclusion:

5.8.1 While many residents reported satisfaction with their current homes and surroundings, the themes of storage, soundproofing, safety, and neighbourhood conditions were consistently raised. Importantly, most respondents recognised why refurbishment is not the preferred option and expressed an informed understanding of the case for demolition and redevelopment.

5.8.2 The feedback from residents of Nettleton Court & Dudeney Lodge reflect both a strong connection to their homes and a clear understanding of the wider issues influencing the Council’s position.

5.8.3 The Council acknowledges these insights and will continue to ensure that residents’ priorities — including safety, transport connectivity, access to services, and the quality of future homes — are embedded in the design development and ongoing engagement as the programme progresses.

6 Falcon Court, Heron Court, Kestrel Court, Kingfisher Court and Swallow Court in Whitehawk

6.1 What do you like about your current home and the area?

About Your Home			About Your Area		
Size and Layout of Rooms	113	81.8%	Transport Links & Buses	92	66.6%
Heating, Hot Water & Warmth	90	65.2%	Close to Shops & Services	68	49.2%
Balcony or Own Outdoor Space	88	63.7%	Green Spaces Nearby	68	49.2%
View from Windows	82	59.4%	Connection to Seafront/Town Centre	59	42.7%
Open Plan or Separate Kitchen	73	52.8%	Safety & Security	58	42%
Storage Space Available	58	42%	Neighbours & Community	56	40.5%
Accessibility features	38	27.5%	Parking Available	28	20.2%
Sound Proofing between Homes	36	26%	No Answer	25	18.1%
Other (Please tell us)	11	7.9%	Other (Please tell us)	12	8.6%
No Answer	9	6.5%			

6.1.1 Other (About Your Home)

- Nothing, I’m being forced to stay in a 2 bed with 18yr son sharing with 16yr sister and me sharing with my 11yr old
- It’s not very easily accessible
- Nothing
- I love my flat
- I like the light
- Feel more secure
- I hate it here
- Allotment
- I like the flat
- Nothing
- prefer separate kitchen. Hot water and water pressure not good. Communal heating is good. I hear a lot of noise between neighbours. Balcony feels unsafe, not something a child can be on- feels not strong enough/ how its built. Storage space bad/ limited by water tank. In bathroom - handrails installed - special locks installed

6.1.2 Other (About Your Area)

- My family is in Whitehawk also my autistic daughter goes to the met and can't do multiple bus routes
- Baby groups / toddler
- Local school, church
- More space
- Want to stay on bus route 1
- Hate this area
- Racecourse
- Bins are always left messy
- Allotment and racecourse
- Being in a short distance from my disabled daughter and grandson who I support and am secondary carer for them both
- Smell of weed not so nice - I don't drive so doesn't affect me
- Lots of ASB late at night. Not safe for children. Door to building broken - randoms coming in drugs and things

6.1.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

6.1.4 Residents ranked size and layout of rooms (81.8%) as their favourite aspect of their current homes, followed by Heating, Hot Water and Warmth (65.2%), and Balcony or own Outdoor Space.

6.1.5 The Council recognises residents' strong appreciation for well-designed- internal space, including room sizes, layouts, and access to private balconies or outdoor space. These priorities will be taken into account as design work progresses, and opportunities to optimise internal layouts, balconies and outlooks will be explored as part of the emerging proposals, where feasible, taking into consideration the feedback of residents.

6.1.6 Any new development would be required to comply with current Building Regulations relating to heating, hot water and Warmth. As part of this, there will be a strong focus on energy efficient design to help ensure comfortable living conditions for residents while supporting lower energy use over the long term.

6.1.7 Residents identified transport links (66.6%), proximity to shops and services (49.2%) and access to nearby green spaces (49.2%) as the most valued aspects of their current location. In taking forward any future development, the Council will seek to ensure that new proposals complement the existing green space and local character of the area, creating an environment that residents can continue to take pride in.

6.2 What don't you like about your current home and the area?

About Your Home			About Your Area		
Other (Please tell us)	43	31.1%	Bins Storage/Rubbish	48	34.7%
Poor Water Pressure	42	30.4%	Street based antisocial behaviour, such as drugs, rough sleeping	45	32.6%
No Answer	34	24.6%	No Answer	38	27.5%

Not Enough Storage	30	21.7%	Parking problems	30	21.7%
Heating Problems	27	19.5%	Area feels unsafe	24	17.3%
Damp Issues	27	19.5%	Problems with Neighbours	21	15.2%
Size too Small	22	15.9%	Other (Please tell us)	17	12.3%
No outdoor space	19	13.7%	Poor Road cleaning	15	10.8%
Number of Lifts	14	10.1%	Too Far from Shops/Services	5	3.6%
Hard to get in and out	12	8.6%	Poor Transport Links	3	2.1%
No View or poor view	4	2.8%	No Green Spaces	2	1.4%
Size too big	1	0.7%			

6.2.1 Other (About Your Home)

- Repairs have been bad
- Safety
- Waste pipes are not big enough
- Water pressure is bad
- Balcony not safe for Son
- Rain comes in when it rains and how high up we are
- Pigeons, cupboards falling off
- Leaks
- Poor care and disrepair
- No outdoor space
- Overcrowded
- Leaks
- Happy
- Don't like the neighbourhood and the people around
- The dogs wee is bad in landings and lifts
- Kitchen falling apart
- No hot water in my kitchen
- Noise from the people upstairs
- Needs new kitchen
- Nightmare noise from upstairs
- Shower there is no bath
- No issues at all
- Likes it all
- Far away from the town
- Nothing
- Nothing I don't like. I get on with everyone have no problems
- Feels unsafe being in a flat with small children
- Leaks
- The lifts are a mess
- Nothing
- Bedbugs
- Poor electric system and water supply
- No visitors parking bays as these be taken up by the bins and the area seems to have a lot of people smoking weed in the building comes through my vents

in the toilet and bathroom so with young children it's not very nice to walk into the flat front door to smell. Police most of the time round the blocks of flats.

- Lifts, heating is always breaking, caretaker is not given proper things to do her job, lots of people smoke weed in the block so stinks
- Bed bugs
- Sometimes lift breaks down which is annoying
- Not near enough to work
- Water comes up through the bath from other people's baths
- Unsuitable and dangerous for wheelchair user
- Childs bedroom is so small - if we could divide it up for privacy but not enough room. Some heating problems and have had to call people out. Here we don't control the heat especially when its cold, and a few years back we had no hot water for a month. A few damp issues in bedrooms. we tend to keep windows open. have a lot of stuff in both rooms. Very small balcony.
- Being up high with young children and an adult with mental health issues
- Too High up with kids
- Lifts and communal area not clean

6.2.2 Other (About Your Area)

- Litter in the communal areas of the building and the recycling is done badly. It's always on the floor or in the wrong bin.
- Not enough dog waste bins
- Nothing
- Human faeces in the stairway
- Area is fine
- Not enough children family parks
- The hills are hard to walk up
- What goes on in the area
- No issues at all
- Nothing I don't like
- The smell of drugs every night
- Kids running about
- Bins
- Gone downhill, no respect from residents and drinkers at entrance
- It's become very loud and too many big dogs
- The smell in blocks with windows and wafting up - could do with more recycling bins
- Noisy

6.2.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

6.2.4 24.6% of residents reported no concerns about their current home. Among those who did highlight issues, 30.4% of residents reported poor water pressure. Water pressure testing will be part of the development process and is acknowledged as a resident concern at this stage.

- 6.2.5 31.1% of residents provided additional comments through the free text section, where existing building condition, noise and soundproofing, and safety, security and anti-social behaviour were raised as common issues.
- 6.2.6 Secure by Design principles will be adopted as part of any new developments to address anti-social behaviour issues, and as noted previously, any new buildings would be required to meet current building regulation standards for sound insulation, helping to reduce noise transfer and support improved living conditions. Concerns around the existing building conditions will be shared with the relevant teams to ensure that resident feedback is captured.
- 6.2.7 27.5% of respondents reported no concern about the area, though anti-social behaviour was mentioned again at 32.6%, the response of which has been included above. The bins/storage were highlighted as the greatest dislike among residents (34.7%). Proposals for bin storage will also form part of the design process, and feedback on the limitations of the current arrangements will be considered when developing options for new facilities.

6.3 Is it clear why refurbishment of the buildings is not the preferred option?

Yes	No	No Answer	Comments
120 (86.9%)	6 (4.3%)	5 (3.6%)	6 (4.3%)

Comments

- It is clear not the preferred option
- No lifts to top floors is stupid. Lack of bedrooms poor quality falling apart
- I think it's outrageous I got put into a block of flats on temporary accommodation when the month after I get a letter saying its being demolished. And then more people being moved in
- These blocks are far too old, always having issues and problems constantly knocking them down is the best option
- Blocks are past there sell by date and cannot be fixed
- Needs to be done but want new council home

6.3.3 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

- 6.3.4 Most residents indicated that they were clear about why refurbishment is not the preferred option, which is a testament to the ongoing efforts to engage with all residents. The Council will maintain a commitment to clear and timely communication throughout the next stages of the programme so that residents remain fully informed about any decisions relating to the buildings.

6.4 Is it clear why the preferred option is to knock down the current buildings and replace with new homes?

Yes	No	No Answer	Comments
125 (90.5%)	7 (5%)	3 (2.1%)	2 (1.4%)

Comments

- I think it would cost more to demolished render
- I agree

6.4.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

6.4.2 The vast majority of residents indicated that they were clear about why the preferred option is to knock down the existing buildings and replace with new homes. The Council will maintain a commitment to clear and timely communication throughout the next stages of the programme so that residents remain fully informed about any decisions relating to the buildings.

6.5 What outdoor spaces and facilities would you want in a new development?

Comments	Balconies	108	78.2%
	Good lighting for Safety	89	64.4%
	Local Shops	89	64.4%
	Parking	88	63.7%
	Community Garden Areas	77	55.7%
	Seating areas for residents	77	55.7%
	Trees and Green Spaces	72	52.1%
	Children's Play Areas	63	45.6%
	Clear Sightlines (no hidden corners)	55	39.8%
	Allotments & Growing Spaces	46	33.3%
	Fencing	44	31.8%
	Dog Exercise Area	40	28.9%
	Raised Planting Beds	32	23.1%
	Storage for Mobility Scooters/Equipment	30	21.7%
	Other (Please tell us)	11	7.9%
No Answer	6	4.3%	

- Yes, for others dedicated bike storage and fencing I think is not necessarily for safety
- Something for teenagers

- Support sensory regulation
- Adult social area
- Bike shed
- Don't want to go to high rise blocks and getting bungalow would be ideal
- Not bothered I don't want to come back
- I wouldn't come back
- My own private space/ good bus route into town
- Better security
- if balcony then a bigger one built better that isn't glass panel to feel more solid

6.5.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

6.5.2 Residents identified balconies (78.2%), good lighting for safety (64.4%) and proximity to local shops (64.4%) as the most important outdoor features. The Council will explore opportunities to include balconies and enhance outlooks as part of the emerging design proposals where feasible, noting that balconies have been incorporated into many recent Council-led developments. Lighting and wider safety considerations will be developed in line with Secured by Design (SBD) principles, ensuring that natural surveillance, safe movement through the site and well-lit shared areas are embedded into future designs.

6.5.3 In relation to access to local shops, there may be opportunities to enhance this as part of the wider master planning work for the Whitehawk area. This could include exploring options either on the existing site or within the surrounding neighbourhood to help strengthen the overall offer of local amenities.

6.6 What indoor facilities (shared spaces) would be important to you?

More than One Lift	75	54.3%
Community Room for Meetings/Activities	63	45.6%
Easy Access in and out for residents	62	44.9%
Sound Proofing	61	44.2%
Access to the internet	38	27.5%
Toilets	31	22.4%
Temperature Control	29	21%
Internal walkways between blocks	26	18.8%
Small spaces for informal get-togethers	23	16.6%
No Answer	15	10.8%
Other (Please tell us)	7	5%

Comments

- A laundry which I don't mind paying for
- Hall for rent
- Parking
- Not bothered but don't want to come back
- Wouldn't come back so not bothered
- Security or someone about (concierge)
- Laundry

6.6.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

6.6.2 More than half of residents (54.3%) expressed a preference for buildings with more than one lift. Any future redevelopment would meet current building safety and accessibility requirements, which include the need for multiple lifts in blocks of this scale. Residents also highlighted the value of having a community room for meetings and activities (45.6%), as well as the importance of easy access in and out of the buildings (44.9%).

6.6.3 Options for community space and improvements to the outdoor public realm will be explored as part of future development proposals and the wider Whitehawk masterplan which will involve significant input from residents. This work will also consider residents' feedback regarding the need for improved access arrangements to and from the buildings.

6.7 What's important for your area's future?

Local Shops	79	57.2%
Protecting Existing Green Spaces	73	52.8%
Facilities for Young People	72	52.1%
Protecting Community Spaces	61	44.2%
Local Jobs and Training Opportunities	59	42.7%
Being Part of the Local Community	52	37.6%
Accessibility of Site	48	34.7%
Better Connections Between Blocks	36	26%
No Answer	9	6.5%
Other (Please tell us)	9	6.5%

Comments

- Close to work and hospital

- Chains of shops cheaper shops
- Community hub down at the library better pathways for ways for disabled people
- Close to hospital
- Not coming back, so it doesn't really matter
- A better future away from here
- Making sure there's an onsite shop, and GP on the estate
- Transport links
- Being kid friendly. It was so different when I was born 61 yrs ago.

6.7.1 Brighton and Hove City Councils feedback:

6.7.2 Residents placed particular importance on the availability of local shops (57.2%), the protection of existing green spaces (52.8%), and the provision of facilities for young people (52.1%). These priorities reflect a strong interest in maintaining and enhancing the community infrastructure within the area.

6.7.3 The Council will consider opportunities to strengthen local retail provision as part of the wider master planning work for Whitehawk. In parallel, the Council intends to safeguard existing green spaces and explore ways to improve their accessibility and usability for residents. As part of this process, options to enhance facilities for young people will also be assessed to ensure future proposals support a balanced and inclusive neighbourhood.

6.8 Conclusion:

6.8.1 The consultation showed a broad understanding of the structural issues affecting the Whitehawk blocks, with most residents recognising why refurbishment is not the preferred option and why demolition and redevelopment offer a more sustainable long-term solution.

6.8.2 Overall, the feedback from the Whitehawk 'Bird Blocks' demonstrates that residents value many aspects of their existing homes and neighbourhoods, while also highlighting clear areas where improvements are needed.

6.8.3 The Council acknowledges the key themes raised through the engagement and will continue to ensure that these insights directly shape the design development, rehousing approach, and ongoing communication with residents as the programme progresses.

6.8.4 The Council also acknowledges the ongoing development of the wider Whitehawk masterplan, which continues to progress, with the necessary procurement processes scheduled to commence shortly. Feedback gathered through the engagement and consultation activity will be incorporated into the further development of the Whitehawk masterplan.

7 Equalities Information

7.1 The Council is bound by the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not.

7.2 The eight LPS blocks have a diverse demographic profile, including a wide range of ages, household types, languages spoken, levels of digital access, varying health and mobility needs, and different ways of engaging with information. Recognising this, the engagement programme was designed to ensure that all groups directly affected by the proposed regeneration were reached.

7.3 This included a series of equality-focused activities aimed at removing barriers to participation:

- Targeted Engagement: Specific efforts were made to include underrepresented and vulnerable residents. Tailored support was provided for those facing language, disability, or digital exclusion barriers. Activities included focus groups, one-to-one conversations, door-knocking campaigns, and accessible feedback mechanisms such as post boxes in communal areas.
- Inclusive Consultation Methods: A range of engagement opportunities were offered to accommodate different preferences and needs. These included online surveys, site-specific workshops, monthly drop-in sessions, and Resident Advisory Group meetings at each site, ensuring all voices could be heard.
- Broad Stakeholder Involvement: The programme engaged secure tenants, temporary accommodation households, Seaside Homes residents, and leaseholders (both resident and non-resident). This comprehensive approach ensured that the consultation reflected the diversity of the affected population.

8 Conclusion & Next Steps

8.1 The Council has now completed its legal obligation to consult secure tenants with regards to the first phase of this process, as well as its duty to consult leaseholders, TA and private tenants. Response rates to the consultation were strong across all three sites, with an overall combined return rate of

58.8% supported by a comprehensive and sustained programme of engagement. The feedback received has been carefully reviewed and will continue to inform the development of design principles and future proposals as the programme progresses.

- 8.2 While some of the feedback from the residents indicates a wish for there not to be demolition, there appears to be a general recognition and understanding that demolition is the most realistic option. Following the results of the consultations set out in this report and the options analyses provided to cabinet in July 2025, this report recommends that the preferred option of demolition and redevelopment should be taken forward for each site, including the approval of 'Initial Demolition Notices' which will suspend the Right to Buy during this period.
- 8.3 The Council has the power to issue 'Initial Demolition Notices' for each secure tenant on each of the sites under the Housing Act 1985. The notice formally signals the Council's intention to redevelop and remains in force for up to seven years from the date it is served. The Council currently anticipates demolishing the LPS blocks once they are fully vacated, expected within the next five to seven years. Whilst seven years is the maximum period allowed for by statute, the expectation is that works of demolition will be completed promptly. The Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Care will need to give consideration as to the timing of the service of the interim demolition notices.
- 8.4 Further consultation will continue as plans evolve, ensuring residents and stakeholders remain closely involved in shaping the next stages of the programme. This will include targeted engagement with local neighbours—such as adjoining property owners, nearby residents, local community groups and relevant businesses—particularly at key design and development milestones. These conversations will take place before any significant proposals are finalised, allowing local feedback to inform the emerging plans.
- 8.5 Any future decision to proceed with demolition would be subject to a separate approval process and the issuing of a 'Final Demolition Notice', which would end any existing Right to Buy claim and prevents new applications. Additional statutory consultation requirements would also apply at that stage, providing further opportunities for those directly affected to comment.
- 8.6 In line with the July Cabinet report, officers are progressing plans for the redevelopment of each site. Individual schemes will be brought back to Cabinet for approval at the appropriate stages.
- 8.7 At each stage requiring approval, development proposals will be supported by a detailed business case demonstrating affordability and long-term financial viability. This will include full capital and revenue implications, funding assumptions, comprehensive risk assessments, and evidence of deliverability. Proposals will also demonstrate alignment with corporate priorities, housing need, and value for money principles.

Housing Tenancy Management Policy

Rehousing Policy - Regeneration Schemes

(September 2025) Amended January 2026.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy sets out the approach that Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) takes when secure and introductory tenants will lose their home because of the Council's Housing Regeneration Programme.
- 1.2 This policy also outlines the approach and support to private sector tenants and non-secure tenants living in temporary accommodation provided by the Council under its homelessness or homelessness prevention duties under Part VII Housing Act 1996 or Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, living in any affected block.
- 1.3 This policy does not apply to Leaseholders who will be able to access a dedicated resource to help them through this process.

2. Aims

2.1 The aims of this policy for secure council tenants who will be rehoused permanently are:

- To deliver effective consultation with residents moving from their homes at the earliest opportunity and throughout the process.
- To enable residents to have influence over their rehousing options
- To minimise disturbance to residents.
- To support residents, both financially and practically.
- To make best use of stock to address needs and preferences of residents.
- To minimise rent loss to BHCC.
- To ensure that the buildings are decanted in line with regeneration timescales using a Local Lettings Plan (LLP).

3 The Legal Basis

3.1 The following key legislation is related to this policy:

Housing Act 1985. If rehousing is necessary, the Council has a legal obligation under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 to consult with secure and introductory tenants when they are substantially affected. Consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at an early stage, and the Council will consult with all affected persons.

Housing Act 1988, Schedule 2, Part III of the Housing Act. 1988 provides a definition of suitable alternative accommodation. This should provide the tenant with equivalent security of tenure and be similar regarding rent, size and situation.

Land Compensation Act 1973. Section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 sets out the provisions for the statutory Home Loss Payments and Disturbance Allowances.

Localism Act 2011, section 160ZA. This outlines persons not eligible to be rehoused. These include unauthorised occupants, sub-tenants, lodgers, licensees, and other non-secure occupants.

4. Rehousing secure tenants

4.1 A permanent move will be necessary where it is planned to dispose of, demolish and/or redevelop the property.

- 4.2 Council tenants who need to be moved from their homes permanently as a result of the Council's Regeneration Programme will be supported into a new home in a planned way.
- 4.3 A development will have a phased plan and timetable which will impact and influence the re-housing options available to secure council tenants. For example, it may mean that on some sites where regeneration or development occurs, that this will happen in phases with some blocks being demolished before others.
- 4.4 Allocation and priority for rehousing secure council tenants will be in accordance with a Local Lettings Plan (LLP) in line with the Council's Allocation Policy 2025.

Returning to new build properties

- 4.5 There is no legal requirement for the council to give secure council tenants the option to return to the redeveloped site, however we are committed to helping those that wish to remain in the area or return to the regenerated blocks to do so, wherever possible.
- 4.6 Existing secure council tenants whose homes are due to be demolished will have priority for the new replacement homes being provided on their estate before they are made available to any other applicants, subject to housing need. This will form part of a local lettings plan (LLP).
- 4.7 For secure council tenants who want to return to one of the new-build properties, the construction phasing of the regeneration programme will mean that secure tenants are unable to move directly into a new home on the same site or scheme as new units may not be ready until later in the redevelopment process.
- 4.8 In these circumstances secure council tenants will be offered another secure tenancy elsewhere until the new-build property is ready.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The council acknowledges that moving home can be a stressful experience, especially when the move is not voluntary. We aim to ensure that moves are carried out sensitively, appropriately, and efficiently with the minimum upset and difficulty to the tenant and their household.
- 5.2 When a vacant possession of property is necessary, the Council has a legal obligation under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 to consult with tenants when they are substantially affected. Consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at an early stage, and the Council will consult with all

affected persons sensitively and take account of any specific factors including (but not limited to) disability and vulnerability.

- 5.3 The section 105 consultation was undertaken over a 12-week period from 13th October 2025 until 12th January 2026 and included a survey on the Rehousing Policy and the draft Local Lettings Plan. Feedback from that consultation has been considered and has shaped this final version of the Rehousing Policy.
- 5.4 At the start of the process residents in every scheme affected by decommissioning, recommissioning, or redevelopment will have the opportunity to meet with council staff who will explain:
- What the proposed project is and why it is being undertaken.
 - The timing of the project
 - The rehousing policy and process
- 5.5 In cases of major redevelopment, and/or demolition of properties, authority will be sought from the Council's Cabinet to proceed before detailed individual needs are assessed.

6 Individual Need

- 6.1 Once authority to commence with the moves has been acquired, a single point of contact (SPOC) from the Housing service will be assigned to each household. Where this involves redevelopment of more than one site, this will be done in a phased way, prioritising the buildings that need to be rehoused first.
- 6.2 The SPOC will make an initial visit to meet with the secure council tenant to identify their housing needs and preferences; and to get a holistic overview of the whole household, mapping any vulnerabilities, support, care or health and wellbeing needs, cultural as well any safeguarding issues and accessibility requirements in terms of communication preferences.
- 6.3 The SPOC will identify and request such additional support as is required by the tenant during the rehousing process. This may include help with:
- understanding legal rights
 - assisting with bidding for properties on Homemove
 - filling out forms - including for financial assistance
 - providing translators and/ or interpreters
 - Ensuring communication is in an accessible format
 - Practical help with removals and relocating

- ensuring health, mobility and adaptation needs are met (see paragraph 3.5 of the Adaptations Procedure¹)
- 6.4 Where support requires a multi-agency approach, the SPOC will co-ordinate the involvement of other services and agencies
- 6.5 The SPOC will be available to answer ongoing questions from tenants.
- 6.6 In cases where the tenant's affairs are dealt with by a third party, such as the Court of Protection, the SPOC should take legal advice, as an expedited application may be required.
- 6.7 **The Tenant's Role.**
While BHCC will do everything possible to aid the tenant, especially where support needs have been identified, the tenant still has a responsibility to engage with this process.
- 6.8 When it comes to the move, the tenant will be expected to pack up their own belongings unless they need help in which case, a packing service will be arranged.

7 Bidding and Housing Need

- 7.1 Once an individual assessment of housing need has been made, secure council tenants will be assigned Priority Band B on Homemove. Assistance with bidding will be offered for those households who need support to do so. If bidding is not successful and in consultation with the tenant, an offer of a direct let will be made.
- 7.2 Suitable alternative accommodation refers to accommodation which provides the tenant with equivalent security of tenure and is similar regarding rent, size, situation etc. as required under Schedule 2, Part III of the Housing Act 1988 and meets the tenants' needs.
- 7.3 If a secure tenant's current property doesn't meet their household's bedroom need a larger property than they currently occupy may be offered in line with the Council's Housing Allocation Policy 2025.
- 7.4 Secure tenants wishing to downsize to a smaller property may be eligible for the Transfer Incentive Scheme in line with the Council's Housing Allocation Policy 2025.
- 7.5 **Alternative Pathways**
In parallel with Homemove bidding, the SPOC will offer advice and support about all the housing options available including shared ownership, accessing the PRS, and registering with the Homefinder Uk service.

¹ [Housing \(Housing Management\) - Adaptations - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

8 Notices of Seeking Possession

- 8.1 The Housing Act 1985 requires that the council serve Notices of Seeking Possession upon tenants prior to seek possession for the purposes of housing regeneration and development.
- 8.2. The council will rely upon Ground 10 Schedule 2 Housing Act 1985 which provides that it is a ground for possession where:
- “The landlord intends, within a reasonable time of obtaining possession of the dwelling-house—
- (a) to demolish or reconstruct the building or part of the building comprising the dwelling-house, or
- (b) to carry out work on that building or on land let together with, and thus treated as part of, the dwelling-house, and cannot reasonably do so without obtaining possession of the dwelling-house.”
- 8.3 Depending upon the development scheme, the council may also rely upon Ground 10A: “The dwelling-house is in an area which is the subject of a redevelopment scheme approved by the Secretary of State or the Regulator of Social Housing or Scottish Homes in accordance with Part V of this Schedule and the landlord intends within a reasonable time of obtaining possession to dispose of the dwelling-house in accordance with the scheme”
- 8.4 It is anticipated that Notices of Seeking Possession will be served up to 12 months prior to the Council requiring possession to commence the redevelopment.

9 Compensation and Costs

There are two types of payments that secure council tenants who need to permanently move may be entitled to:

- Home Loss Payments
- Disturbance Payments

- 9.1 **Home Loss Payments for Secure Council Tenants.** A Home Loss Payment is a statutory payment made to compensate secure tenants for having to permanently move out of their home. This mandatory lump sum payment is fixed by Section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. The Government reviews the figure annually.
- 9.2 The Home Loss payment is for an eligible secure tenant/joint tenant who has lived in the property as their principal home for at least 12 months prior to the date of agreement for the regeneration of the scheme and is required to move

out of their home permanently as a result of the property being demolished, sold or the scheme remodelled to remove their property. In all circumstances the Home Loss payment is limited to one per household – joint tenants will therefore receive one payment between them.

- 9.3 Eligibility for the statutory compensation payments will be triggered by the Notice of ending of the tenancy (NEAT) for the LPS Property in question. The Home Loss payment will become payable once the property has become empty and the keys returned to the Housing service.
- 9.4 Deductions for any outstanding housing related debts owing to the Council including rent and service charge arrears, housing benefit overpayments and council tax arrears will be made from the Home Loss Payment or statutory Disturbance payment. The tenant will be notified of the amount of any deductions prior to the payment being made. Deductions for debts will not be made from a discretionary Disturbance payment to ensure the move itself is affordable.
- 9.5 Outgoing tenants moving through a Mutual exchange or tenancy swap will not be eligible for the compensation payments as this does not leave a vacant property. The eligibility for the Home Loss compensation will transfer to the incoming tenant.
- 9.6 **Disturbance Allowances.** Disturbance Allowances cover 'reasonable expenses' involved in moving.
- They can either be statutory or discretionary, depending on how long the tenant has lived at the property.
- If the secure tenant has not lived in the property for twelve months, and therefore does not qualify for a Home Loss Payment, Disturbance Allowances are statutory for permanent decants/moves.
 - If the secure tenant has lived in the property for over twelve months and qualifies for a Home Loss Payment, Disturbance Allowances are discretionary for a permanent decant/move.
- 9.7 BHCC will accept claims for discretionary disturbance allowance costs based on invoices and receipts supplied by the tenant or contractor. Eligible costs will have been discussed and agreed between the tenant and the Rehousing team prior to the claim being paid.
- 9.8 Based on the tenant's identified needs, the SPOC will arrange for specialised contractors to carry out:
- a) The removal of furniture including storage and supply of storage boxes, where this support need has been identified by the SPOC. This includes clearing items out of lofts and sheds subject to a reasonable determination by the SPOC.

- b) The lifting and refitting of carpets at the permanent address; or alternatively, the provision and fitting of new good serviceable carpets at the permanent address from an approved supplier up to an agreed upper limit if carpets are damaged (for example when foam backed carpets are lifted) or are unable to be cut down/re-used to fit this property. Tenants can get an upgraded carpet by paying the additional costs themselves.
- c) The replacement and fitting of (if in accordance with policy) laminate flooring if tenants' existing flooring is unable to be re-used – payment will be up to the same approved upper limit per metre as set for carpets. Tenants can get upgraded flooring by paying the additional costs themselves.
- d) The provision of new curtains/blinds up to a reasonable cost per pair/blind where the existing curtains/blinds do not fit due to different window sizes
- e) The removal and refitting of existing curtain tracks.
- f) The disconnection and re-connection of any existing telephones, television aerials and satellite dishes (providing BHCC permission had been given for their original installation).
- g) The redirection of post for three months (following the tenants' completion of the postal redirection form).
- h) The disconnection and reconnection of existing kitchen appliances, or room heaters using Gas Safe or equivalent registered plumbers or electricians.
- i) Any other expense deemed 'reasonable'.

Disturbance Allowances, unlike Home Loss payments, can also be paid to tenants who are made to temporarily decant.

- 9.9 If tenants prefer to make arrangements themselves, they can use their own supplier (for example, for removals, carpets, and curtains). BHCC will reimburse all reasonable costs in line with the policy above, provided that: It is supplied with details of the proposed costs prior to work being ordered; the costs are in line with what BHCC would have paid had it made the arrangements itself.
- 9.10 Tenant requests for the payment of goods and services will need to be made within three months of their moving date. Payments will only be made against receipts.
- 9.11 Discretionary payments. Discretionary payments are payments made over and above the legal obligations and can be used as an incentive to move, for example, where a tenant does not qualify to receive a Home Loss payment as they have been resident for less than a year. The costs/benefits of making a

discretionary payment will be balanced against those of taking legal action to secure a move.

- 9.12 Disputes over remuneration. If a tenant is not satisfied with the amount recompensed through this policy, they should contact the Council's Customer Feedback Team customerfeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk or telephone the Customer Feedback team Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1.30pm on 01273 291 229.
- 9.13 In addition, they may have the right of appeal under the Land Compensation Act 1973, and any claims should be made to the Upper Tribunal. Its address is: -

Lands Chamber
45 Bedford Square
London
WC1B 3DN
Tel: 020 7612 9710
Email: lands@tribunals.gsi.gov.uk

10. Fair and Inclusive Measures

- 10.1 This policy aims to show that all tenants' differing needs and preferences are considered. Central to this is the personal visit to carry out a needs assessment at the beginning of the rehousing process within each block, which allows BHCC to:
- Identify those who may need more support
 - Ensure tenants are kept informed in the way most appropriate to them.
 - Make suitable rehousing offers, with full consideration made of adaptations required.
- 10.2 Where it is necessary for a tenant to move, we will consider the needs of each individual household – having particular regard to their protected characteristics, vulnerabilities, disabilities, care, health and support needs, cultural differences, accessibility needs, child protection and safeguarding, and child educational needs, and where required, a tailored Support Plan will be agreed with the tenant for the rehousing process. This will include details of any additional assistance required and involve a multi-agency approach where necessary.
- 10.3 Where tenants with high care and support needs that can no longer be met, or cannot currently be met within BHCC general needs accommodation, and who require supported or residential care, the SPOC will liaise with the relevant services/partners to identify suitable alternative permanent or interim

accommodation. In instances where interim accommodation is provided an offer of an alternative secure tenancy will be made once they are ready to move back in general needs accommodation.

11. OFFER FOR TENANTS RENTING PRIVATELY

- 11.1 Private tenants living in an affected block who are renting privately will be kept updated in relation to the plans for the block. They will be included in all communication channels including through written communication, resident meetings, and direct contact with assigned housing officers if they need help to find alternative accommodation when the time comes that they need to move.

Housing Advice and Support

- 11.2 When the time comes, each household will be assigned a named housing officer who will act as their main point of contact. They will receive personalised advice on their housing options, including access to the private rented sector, eligibility for social housing, and support available under homelessness legislation.

Officers will work with the household to understand their circumstances and help them make informed decisions.

- 11.3 Communication will consider accessible formats, preferred methods, and translation and interpreting will be available to ensure households fully understand their individual circumstances and can make informed decisions about their housing duty/situation and housing options.

Rehousing Assistance

- 11.4 If help is needed the council will offer support to private tenants to secure alternative accommodation. This may include assistance in finding a private rented accommodation, guidance on financial support available such as deposits and rent in advance and help with moving costs where appropriate. Households may also need the support of partner agencies, and to be provided with advice to widen their housing options.
- 11.5 Where a tenant is at risk of homelessness, the local authority will assess their individual situation and advise them of their housing options.

Vulnerability and Safeguarding

- 11.6 Additional support will be provided to private tenants who are vulnerable or have support needs. We will consider the needs of each individual household

with regard to protected characteristics, vulnerabilities, disabilities, care, health and support needs, mobility/adaptations, cultural differences, accessibility needs, child protection and safeguarding, and children's educational needs.

The local authority will work with safeguarding teams and partner agencies to ensure that vulnerable private tenants receive appropriate care, support and protection.

12. Offer for Temporary Accommodation Tenants

- 12.1 The council recognises that some households currently residing in blocks scheduled for demolition/regeneration are placed there under temporary accommodation arrangements. These placements are made under statutory homelessness duties and are not intended to be long-term housing solutions. However, the planned demolition of these blocks requires a coordinated and compassionate approach to rehousing affected temporary accommodation tenants.

Rehousing Assistance

- 12.2 Temporary accommodation tenants will be offered either settled or alternative temporary accommodation before they need to move.
- 12.3 Housing staff will continue to support them with their Personal Housing Plan and ensure this is aligned to and kept up to date with the timetable for rehousing within their block.

Offer of Alternative Accommodation

- 12.4 Affected households will be offered one or more of the following, depending on their circumstances and legal status:
- A new placement in temporary accommodation.
 - An offer of social housing or:
 - A private rented sector offer.
- 12.5 All offers will be made in writing and will include information about the terms of the tenancy, the location of the property, and the support available.

Support During Transition

- 12.6 Each household will be assigned a single point of contact or SPOC who will provide personalised support when it is time to move. This includes:

- Assistance with viewing and moving into new accommodation.
 - Liaison with support services for households with additional needs.
- 12.7 Communication will be clear and consider accessible formats and preferred methods; and translation and interpreting will be available to ensure households fully understand their individual circumstances and can make informed decisions about their housing duty/situation and housing options.

Safeguarding and Vulnerability

- 12.8 The council will take into account any vulnerabilities or safeguarding concerns when making rehousing decisions. We will consider the needs of each individual household with regard to protected characteristics, vulnerabilities, disabilities, care, health and support needs, mobility/adaptations, cultural differences, accessibility needs, child protection and safeguarding, and children's educational needs.
- 12.9 Additional support will be coordinated with relevant services and agencies by the SPOC through a support plan to ensure a safe and supported move.



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Draft Local Lettings Plan for Large Panel System (LPS) blocks

9th October 2025.

Reviewed and amended 11.2.26.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Local Lettings Plan is made pursuant to the provisions of s.166A(6) Housing Act 1996 (as amended) and/or s.21 Housing Act 1985 and sets out the principles and procedures adopted by the Council for the allocation of housing to secure council tenants who will be affected by the housing regeneration schemes as defined in Section 2.1 (**Table 1**)
- 1.2 The Local Lettings Plan (LLP) also takes account of the following legislation:
- Homelessness Act 2002
 - Housing Act 1985
 - Housing Act 1996
 - Housing Act 2004
 - Housing and Regeneration Act 2008
 - Human Rights Act 1998
 - Land Compensation Act 1973
 - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
 - Town and Country Planning Act 1990
 - Housing and Planning Act 2016, Pt 4 Ch.6
- 1.3 The Local Lettings Plan has the following objectives:
- Ensure the delivery of the development proceeds on time by facilitating the moves of affected secure tenants from the estates into alternative suitable homes within the timescales for regeneration.
 - Fairly manage the rehousing and payment compensation process.
 - Use the development opportunity to improve housing conditions in the city.
- 1.4 The Local Lettings Plan forms part of the Council's overall Allocation Policy 2025 pursuant to s.166A(1) (6) Housing Act 1996.
- 1.5 Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing Allocation Policy 2025 states: -

A local lettings plan (LLP) is an agreement between the social landlord and local tenants and residents that restricts lettings in the area to certain households. This is done to tackle a specific issue or problem that has been identified locally at either block, street, estate, neighbourhood or city level, or to achieve a sustainable community on a new development.

1.6 The LLP will be subject to consultation with council tenants, applicants on the housing register, residents in the affected areas, and registered providers of housing in accordance with s.166A(13) Housing Act 1996 and s.105 Housing Act 1985, for a period of 12 weeks.

1.7 Following the formal consultation process and feedback, a final draft of the LLP will go to the council's Cabinet for agreement in March 2026. Once the LLP has been agreed, the Council will formally adopt it, and this will override the current eligibility criteria for the area it applies to. This will take into account the impact of overall lettings in the area and the impacts on the wider allocation of housing across the city.

1.8 Any property subject to a Local Lettings Plan will be clearly labelled (LLP) within the advertisements on the Choice-based letting scheme.

2. DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 The Local Lettings Plan (LLP) applies to the permanent rehousing of all secure and introductory council tenants who are affected by the regeneration schemes in respect of the following properties:

Table One – Regeneration Scheme sites

Site	Total number of properties*
St James's House, High Street, Brighton BN2 1QY	123
Dudeney Lodge, Upper Hollingdean Road, BN1 7GT	87
Nettleton Court, Upper Hollingdean Road, BN1 7GS	87
Falcon Court, Swanborough Place, BN2 5QB	54
Heron Court, Swanborough Place, BN2 5QA	48
Kestrel Court Swanborough Place, BN2 5PZ	57
Kingfisher Court, Albourne Close BN2 5FX	45
Swallow Court, Albourne Close BN2 5FW	57

*Please note that these figures include all properties in the blocks regardless of tenure.

- 2.2 The prioritisation of housing allocation within the Local Lettings Plan only applies to secure council tenants residing in the LPS blocks. Eligibility for social housing will continue to be within the Allocations Policy 2025 for any other affected residents within these blocks.

Rehousing options and support to move for Temporary Accommodation and private sector tenants living in the 8 blocks is outlined in the Rehousing Policy.

There is a separate offer for Leaseholders.

DURATION

- 2.3 The Local Lettings Plan will cease to apply upon the completion and initial letting of homes of the regeneration schemes. The council's main Housing Allocation Policy will continue to apply throughout and thereafter to all council tenants.

COUNCIL TENANTS

- 2.4 For the purposes of the Local Lettings Plan, council tenants are secure and introductory tenants who rent a home from the council.

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

- 2.5 All household members who are reasonably expected to reside with the tenant will be considered as part of the eligible tenant's household. This includes:
- Tenant who is an eligible and qualifying person.
 - Tenant's husband, wife, civil partner or someone with whom they cohabit.
 - All dependent children under the age of 18 who live with the tenant as their main and principal home, children of the applicant, husband, wife civil partner who are currently living with the applicant or could reasonably be expected to live within the household as their main and principal home.
 - This can apply to households that are split households who are not able to live together because they do not have accommodation.
 - Normally other people who can be included on the housing application must be members of the applicant's immediate family, as defined by s133 of the Housing Act 1985, who usually reside with them and have done so for a period of at least six months prior to the application. Any other person or persons will only be accepted as part of the applicant's household in

circumstances in which it is reasonable for the person to reside with the applicant.

- A carer where the tenant or member of their household who has been assessed as needing overnight care and they currently live as part of the household as their main and principal home, or there is an identified person not currently living with the person and there is a risk that the applicant may have to go into residential care if the carer is not living with the applicant.

2.6 The council will consider any exceptions not covered by the criteria above on a case-by-case basis. Approval will be given by the Director of Housing People Services.

2.7 The following household members will be excluded from being rehoused:

- Unauthorised occupants including friends, lodgers and sub-tenants living with the tenant;
- Children of the tenant whose main, principal home is elsewhere;
- Any other person the Council deems ineligible.

2.8 If the composition of any household changes or is expected to change (i.e. pregnancy/fostering/adoption) the main tenant is required to inform the Council as soon as reasonably possible. Evidence will be required to support any change to a household's composition.

2.9 The council reserves the right to refuse the addition of a household member or members if it considers, in its absolute discretion the evidence submitted is considered insufficient.

3. RE-HOUSING OPTIONS FOR SECURE COUNCIL TENANTS

EXCEPTIONS

3.1 The Council will rehouse any secure council tenant being displaced from their home because of the LPS Housing Regeneration Programme, with the following exceptions:

3.2 The Council will not rehouse any tenant against whom an outright possession order has been made by a Court for breach of their tenancy conditions for example, due to rent arrears or anti-social behaviour;

3.3 The Council will not rehouse any tenant against whom a suspended possession order has been made if the terms of suspension of the Order have been breached and/or if any breaches are not remedied;

- 3.4 The Council will not rehouse any introductory tenant who fails to satisfactorily complete the introductory period and where a Notice has been served under s.128 Housing Act 1996 (save where the Notice is suspended on statutory review);
- 3.5 Tenants who have rent arrears will not be eligible to move into a new-build property in the redeveloped site, unless they have maintained payments of current rent plus their agreed arrears repayment plan for a continuous period of six months.
- 3.6 Tenants have a right of appeal to the Reviews Officer against a decision not to rehouse.

REHOUSING OPTIONS FOR LPS SECURE COUNCIL TENANTS

- 3.7 The rehousing options available to eligible secure council tenants are set out below:

OPTION 1 – MOVE TO AN EXISTING COUNCIL PROPERTY ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY

- a. Council tenants who wish to move to an existing council property elsewhere in the city will be given the opportunity to do so, through the Choice-based lettings system or direct let
- b. Tenants will be entitled to 2 direct offers of alternative suitable accommodation.

OPTION 2 – MOVE TO AN EXISTING HOUSING ASSOCIATION PROPERTY ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY

- a. Council tenants who wish to move to a property owned and managed by a Housing Association elsewhere in the city will be given the opportunity to do so, through the choice-based lettings system
- b. Council tenants moving to a Housing association or other housing provider will not be offered “like for like” accommodation.
- c. Tenants who choose this option will be supported by the Rehousing Officer to ensure they understand the differences between the Council and Housing Association tenancies and can afford the rent.

OPTION 3 – MOVE TO A SENIORS’ HOUSING OR EXTRA-CARE SCHEME PROPERTY ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY (SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PARTICULAR SCHEME)

- a. Council tenants who are eligible and wish to move to a property in either a Seniors' housing or an Extra Care housing scheme elsewhere in the city will be given the opportunity to do so.
- b. Rehousing officers will provide residents with support including arranging visits to schemes before the viewing and moving process.
- c. Tenants who meet the following criteria will be eligible for offers in a seniors' housing scheme:
 - Aged 55 years or over
 - Single or joint applicants with no children living as part of their household; and
 - In need of the Seniors' intensive housing management support provided by the scheme.
- d. Extra Care housing is for people who require high level support and care needs due to Frailty, Ill-health or restricted mobility. Tenants will be nominated for consideration by a Multi-agency Panel for Extra Care Accommodation.
- e. Additional Charges applicable in Senior Housing/Extra Care Schemes
 In addition to the rent and services charges, there is an additional seniors' housing service charge payable for the intensive housing management support in the council owned seniors' housing and extra care housing schemes within the city. This charge is coverable by Housing Benefit or Universal Credit for those who are eligible for these benefits, otherwise it will need to be self-funded. Some schemes also have a weekly heating charge that is not covered by Universal Credit or Housing benefit.
- f. There is no right to buy in senior housing/extra care schemes.
- g. Tenants will be entitled to two direct offers of alternative accommodation.

OPTION 4 - PURCHASE OF AN AFFORDABLE HOME ELSEWHERE THROUGH A LOW-COST HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME

- a. A number of affordable homes are being built in the city under Shared Ownership schemes and tenants who are working and have savings can be supported to purchase such properties, as well as properties on the open market.
- b. Advice is available for tenants to consider if this is an affordable and viable option based on individual financial circumstances.

OPTION 5 – HOME OWNERSHIP PACT - PILOT FOR PURCHASE OF A HOME IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- a. The Council are proposing to pilot a Home Ownership Pact Scheme for secure tenants living in the eight LPS blocks, enabling tenants to own homes in the private sector as an alternative to the Right to Buy (RTB). This scheme will enable households with the Right to Buy with an alternative to purchasing council housing stock.
- b. Grants will support ownership paths such as outright purchase and shared ownership. It is proposed that grant will be offered at £40,000 for one bedroom, £45,000 for two-bedroom properties and £50,000 for 3-bedroom properties.

OPTION 6 – RENT A PROPERTY ELSEWHERE WITH A PRIVATE LANDLORD

- a. The Council can help tenants to move to a property in the private rented sector. This may be a good option for a tenant who would like to move near a support network in another area or outside of the city.
- b. The Council can provide assistance by liaising on affordable private rented accommodation with landlords as well as offering financial assistance towards the required deposit and first month's rent through the Council's 'Find Your Own' scheme.
- c. Support will also be given to preserve access to health/school networks where possible.

OPTION 7 – SOCIAL HOUSING OUTSIDE OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE:

The council helps people who are looking to relocate to other parts of the country where there is some available social rented housing - if you are interested in relocating go to <https://homefinderuk.org/>. The Homefinder service does not guarantee a move.

3.8 MUTUAL EXCHANGES.

It should be noted that

The Council have the right to refuse a Mutual Exchange once the Initial Notice of Demolition has been issued for that building. “ *The right to a mutual exchange generally ends when a landlord serves an **Initial Demolition***”

Notice (IDN) or a Final Demolition Notice under the Housing Act 1985/2004.
Once a valid demolition notice is in place, the landlord can refuse permission for a mutual exchange because the property is required for demolition.

Moves out of an LPS block via Mutual Exchange would not entitle the resident to the Home Loss Compensation, as the tenancy does not end but is assigned to another incoming tenant. It is the final secure tenant who would be eligible for the Home Loss compensation or Statutory Disturbance payment depending on length of tenancy within the LPS block.

RIGHT TO RETURN TO A NEW PROPERTY IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT ONCE COMPLETED

3.9 The Council will build new council housing across the named regeneration sites in the city as part of the Housing Regeneration Programme. Priority for the new build homes will be given to those secure tenants who have had to move because of the regeneration programme.

3.10 Whilst there is no legal requirement for the Council to give secure tenants the option to return to the redeveloped site, we are committed to helping those that wish to remain in the area or return to the renewal estate to do so, wherever possible.

3.11 Tenants who express an interest in moving back to one of the new homes within the redevelopment area once the properties are built will be given the opportunity to do so.

3.12 This will form part of the LLP when the new homes are let. They will be offered a secure tenancy elsewhere until the new build property is ready.

3.13 This option will apply to tenants who have initially:

- moved to a council or housing association property elsewhere within the city
- moved to a senior housing property elsewhere within the city

3.14 Tenants who have rent arrears will not be eligible to move into a new-build property in the redeveloped estate unless they have maintained payments of current rent plus their agreed arrears repayment plan for a continuous period of six months.

3.15 It is important to note that there will be different rent rates in the regenerated schemes. Whilst we anticipate a percentage being let at “social” rent

levels, the remainder will be let at the “affordable” rent level. The rent for each property will be clear in the advert.

4. ALLOCATION & ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

HOUSING ASSESSMENT/APPLICATION

- 4.1 Dedicated LPS Officers will carry out a one to one meeting with affected secure Council tenants to help with completing the Homemove application and any relevant rehousing assessment forms to establish the needs and preferences of the household, including whether or not they would like to register an interest to return to a new build property in the redeveloped area when they are become available.
- 4.2 As part of this process, the following information will be gathered:
- Housing composition (verifying who lives at the home and that all household members are eligible for rehousing)
 - Tenancy Start Date
 - Rehousing option preference – general needs, senior’s housing or extra care; or residential care if appropriate
 - Bedroom size requirement
 - Location of property preferences (area preference in the city or out of area)
 - Preference to be near to friends, family, current neighbours (as a group move) or support services
 - Any medical, health, mobility, social or risk factors that should be considered
 - Current location of children’s schools and workplace
 - Equalities information for monitoring purposes
- 4.3 The tenant will be notified of the outcome of the application following assessment of their eligibility and needs. This notification will:
- Confirm the Band that the tenant has been placed in
 - Confirm the size (and if applicable, the type of property the tenant is eligible for eg Seniors/Extra Care, mobility rated property)
 - Confirm the tenant’s effective (priority) date
 - Include a reminder about informing the Council of any change in the household’s circumstances
 - Provide details of the appeal process

- 4.4 The tenant will be awarded Priority Band B (Council Management Transfer) in line with the Council's Housing Allocations Policy, based on the requirement for them to move for regeneration purposes.
- 4.5 This will enable Secure tenants without an existing Housing Register application, the opportunity to find a new home through the Council's Choice Based Letting scheme Homemove.
- 4.6 Where the tenant is already on the housing register, their Homemove application will be updated with the relevant housing priority band unless they are on a higher band already and they will maintain their existing effective (priority) date.
- 4.7 Priority to LPS" bidding will be determined by the sequential regeneration/demolition schedule for the 8 Blocks to ensure moves are achieved in the timescales needed.
- 4.9 Where households have the same block priority date, the tenancy start date will determine who gets priority.
- 4.10 Assisted bidding will be provided for those households who are unable to carry out the online bidding process themselves.

THE BIDDING PROCESS

- 4.11 Applicants will be issued with a bidding number. Eligible applicants can make bids for properties advertised, by telephone bidding or by bidding online via the website. Applicants can also nominate a proxy bidder and in exceptional circumstances request that the council bid on their behalf (assisted bidding).
Bidding happens on the website <https://www.homemove.brighton-hove.gov.uk>.
- 4.12 Applicants with support needs, and/or accessibility needs, or those who have difficulty with written English will be supported to bid.
- 4.13 Applicants who urgently need to move but have not placed any bids on suitable eligible properties within an agreed timeframe, may have their bidding replaced by a directed bidding process or may receive a direct offer in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.14 All bids for a property are checked against the eligibility rules, for example any age restrictions or size of property. Ineligible bids are excluded from consideration. We will provide advice and support to applicants who regularly bid for properties they are not eligible for.

- 4.15 Properties are advertised on a fortnightly bidding cycle.
- 4.16 Applicants can bid for up to a maximum of three properties they are eligible for in each bidding cycle. All 3 bids do not have to be placed at the same time. No bids can be placed on any available property after a bidding deadline.
- 4.17 Shortlists will be created within three working days for both BHCC and housing associations properties.
- Homemove are not responsible for the letting process - this is carried out by the relevant landlord.
- 4.18 Successful applicants will be contacted as soon as possible by the landlord.
- 4.19 The shortlist sent to the landlord will include at least three applicant households that are eligible for the property in accordance with the scheme.

These will be:

- 1st Priority
- 2nd Priority
- 3rd Priority

If an applicant is the 1st priority applicant in any shortlist, then they will still be able to place bids on other properties. However, while the applicant is waiting to view the property they will not be considered for any other properties until the result of the offer is known. If the property is unsuitable then the applicant will be able to resume bidding. If the property is refused and deemed suitable the application will remain suspended until the result of the review is known.

- 4.20 If none of the shortlisted applicants accept the property, this will then be offered to the next eligible applicant and this will continue until the end of the shortlist. If no applicants accept the property this will then be re-advertised.
- 4.21 Transparency & Reporting. The Council will publish and refresh monthly a rehousing timetable by block and indicative demand by bedroom size for LPS households.

We will also publish quarterly lettings reports showing the number of properties let to Local Lettings Plan (LLP) applicants.

TIMESCALES FOR BIDDING

- 4.22 Households will be given a period of time to bid on suitable properties. This will need to reflect the regeneration plan and timescale for emptying that building, as well as the availability of suitable accommodation. There needs

to be flexibility in the length of time given the individual needs of the household and the pressures on supply of suitable housing stock.

- 4.23 If they have not been successful in this time, the Council will place bids on behalf of the applicant to ensure 2 suitable offers are made within the timescale needed for the decant of the block.

DIRECT OFFERS OF ACCOMMODATION

- 4.24 Not all council properties becoming available for letting will be offered through choice-based lettings. The council reserves the right to make a direct offer of a property at any time to an applicant in exceptional circumstances, or where doing so would meet the council's strategic aims.

IDENTIFYING AND MAKING A DIRECT OFFER OF ACCOMMODATION

- 4.25 Tenants identified for a direct offer rather than bidding through choice-based lettings, will be entitled to a maximum of two direct offers of suitable accommodation.
- 4.26 The Council will check whether a vacant property is suitable for a secure tenant on the LPS regeneration rehousing waiting list.
- 4.27 Once a suitable property has been identified, the Council will contact the tenant to give the details of the property that is being offered and arrange for the tenant to view the property. This will be followed by a formal offer letter.
- 4.28 The tenant will be asked to view the property and if accepted, then an appointment will be made to sign the tenancy agreement. If they do not consider the property is suitable for themselves or their household, they will be asked to complete a form setting out their reasons for refusing the offer. If a tenant fails to view the property, then this will be deemed a refusal of the offer.
- 4.29 A tenant can ask for a review of the suitability of the accommodation offered regardless of whether they accept the offer or not, by a Reviews Officer. The reasons will be considered as part of the review, and a decision will be made as to whether the offer was reasonable or not.
- 4.30 If the offer is considered unreasonable, the offer will not count against the tenant. This means that they will still be entitled to two further offers.
- 4.31 If the offer is considered reasonable, it will count as the first offer. This means that the tenant will be left with one more offer to be made.

- 4.32 Should the tenant refuse both direct offers of suitable accommodation; the Council may start early possession proceedings in order to obtain vacant possession of the property in time for demolition.
- 4.33 Taking into account the long timescale of the programme and waiting times for rehousing, the Council will check the detail of the needs assessment at the point of making an offer to ensure that there has been no change of circumstances and the offer is suitable.
- 4.34 The Council will liaise with other council services and agencies such as the Occupational Therapy Service, Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, GP etc to ensure the tenant's health, wellbeing and support needs are addressed.

ESTIMATED WAITING TIME FOR AN OFFER OF ACCOMMODATION

- 4.35 The timescales of when a tenant may be offered alternative accommodation will depend on:
- The available supply of accommodation that is suitable to meet their housing needs
 - The redevelopment priority of the estate that the tenant is living in.
- 4.36 Offers of accommodation will be prioritised based on the following criteria:
- A tenant from a priority redevelopment site will be matched to a vacant property
 - The housing needs and vulnerabilities of each tenant matched will then be assessed on a risk based/critical need approach to determine which tenant has priority for the match
 - Where two or more applicants are suitable for a vacancy, serious risk/critical need (e.g., verified medical/safeguarding risk) will be considered explicitly alongside redevelopment priority.
 - If we are unable to differentiate on this basis, priority will be given on tenancy start date.
 - If there is no suitable tenant from the first priority site, the Council will use this criteria to continue to identify a tenant from the second priority sites and so on until the property is let.
 - Note: Where critical risks are identified for non LPS applicants, the Council may use direct lets or management transfers to prevent harm, in line with the Allocations Policy.

BEDROOM SIZE

4.37 Suitable alternative accommodation refers to “*accommodation which provides the tenant with equivalent security of tenure and is similar regarding rent, size, situation etc*”. as required under Schedule 2, Part III of the Housing Act 1988 and meets the tenants’ needs.

4.38 Therefore, under this LLP, secure tenants will be offered a “like for like” property in terms of number of bedrooms if moving within the Council’s housing stock.

4.39 Where a tenant is overcrowded in their current property and has an assessed need on the Council’s Housing Register, a larger property than they currently occupy may be offered.

4.40 The table below sets out the Council’s bedroom standards:

TABLE 2 - BEDROOM STANDARDS

Size	Minimum People	Maximum People	Example types of household
Studio	1	1	Single person
One bed	1	2	Single person or childless couple
Two bed	2	4	One to two child family or single person with live in carer
Two bed Senior/sheltered	2	3	A single person/couple with live in carer
Three bed	3	6+ depending on size	Two or more children (different sex over the age of 10)
Four bed	4	8+ depending on size	Five or more children

TENANTS NEEDING LARGER HOMES

4.41 For households who require more than four bedrooms, and the housing cannot meet the bedroom need, the council will work with them to consider alternative housing options on a case-by-case basis. For example, the family might wish to consider separate housing for adult children. Such housing situations will be approved by the Housing People Services Director where appropriate.

GROUP MOVES

4.42 Where it is possible and there is available supply, the Council will seek to facilitate group moves where two or more eligible households wish to be rehoused near each other, if this is requested. This is to ensure existing communities and support networks can be kept intact so far as reasonably practicable. Tenants will be asked as part of their rehousing application if they wish to express this preference.

DOWNSIZING

4.43 If a tenant chooses to move into a smaller property that meets their housing needs as part of the regeneration programme, they may be entitled to a downsizing payment (Transfer Incentive) for each number of bedrooms they give up once the property has been returned to BHCC.

The current rates for the BHCC Transfer Incentive Scheme are:

£1500 if you give up one bedroom

£2000 if you give up two bedrooms

£5000 if you give up three bedrooms

£6000 if you give up four bedrooms

£1500 if you give up a wheelchair adapted property (even if you keep the same number of bedrooms)

TENANCIES

4.44 Council tenants moving under the regeneration programme into alternative council accommodation will retain the same tenancy rights as they currently have. This means that secure tenants will be offered a secure tenancy.

4.45 Tenants who move into a Housing Association property (registered housing provider accommodation):

Tenants will be granted an assured tenancy in accordance with the policy of that landlord (i.e. periodic or fixed term tenancy).

Rehousing Officers will be able to provide more information on differences between Council and Housing Association tenancies.

4.46 In split household scenarios, secure tenancy provisions will remain with the primary tenant and any split household rehoused into a council property will be offered an introductory tenancy or the equivalent which may be offered by registered housing providers.

4.47 The same principles will apply to those tenants opting to return to a new build home in the redeveloped area once completed and ready for occupation.

- 4.48 All Council tenancies will be granted in accordance with current legislation in operation at the time the tenancy is offered and in line with the Council's Tenancy Agreement.

RENTS

- 4.49 Calculation formulas for rent levels for council properties are set by the government and will differ depending on a several variables including size, valuation, council tax banding, and in the case of new builds and buy back properties, development costs. There are three levels of rents within our HRA council housing stock- Social rent, Living rent and Affordable rent.
- 4.50 In addition to rents, there will be service charges payable which will differ depending on the facilities within a block.
- 4.51 Rents go up annually in April each year. We always write to tenants beforehand to let them know the new rates. If you are claiming benefits, then you must let the DWP or housing benefit know that your rent and/or service charge has increased so that you get the right amount of housing cost benefits paid.
- 4.52 The rent for a property will always be included in the advert.
- 4.53 Housing Association properties charge a higher level of rent – always check the amount in the advert.

5. NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS FOR POSSESSION AND COURT POSSESSION ORDERS

- 5.1 The procedure for issuing formal Notice of Seeking Possession and Court Orders for Possession, in order to ensure that legal and vacant possession of the site can be provided to the council's development partner, will be conducted on a block by block basis, with Notices and Court claims for possession being served on all secure tenants within a block at the same time.
- 5.2 The Council confirms therefore that no Order for Possession on these grounds will be enforced by the Council until such time as two suitable offers have been made to Council tenants under this Local Lettings Plan, and any period of Review has expired.

6. REVIEWS AND APPEALS

- 6.1 Applicants have the right to information about the decisions which are taken in respect of their rehousing application or suitability of the accommodation that

has been offered. Applicants also have rights to review or appeal against rehousing decisions.

- 6.2 Applicants who are unhappy with a rehousing decision should in the first instance contact their Rehousing Officer who will be able to explain or clarify the situation, and whether there is a Right of Review as set out in the Allocations Policy
- 6.3 Allocation and eligibility decisions under this Policy have a direct right of appeal
- 6.4 Applicants intending to make an appeal may want to take independent legal or specialist housing advice, for example the Citizens Advice Bureau or other advisory agency. Rehousing Officers will be able to provide guidance on how to access the services of independent advice agencies.
- 6.5 The formal appeal will be carried out on paper without an oral hearing and a decision issued within 28 days.

Appendix 4- LPS Rehousing Allocation– Comparison Table (Updated at 27.1.26)

Topic	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Permanent moves from July 2025	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Proposed Enhanced Offer in the draft Local Lettings Plan for permanent moves from end of March 2026 (subject to Cabinet agreement)
Compensation Payments	As from the Cabinet decisions of 17.7.25 eligible LPS secure tenant households permanently moving out of the blocks will be entitled to a compensation payment (Home Loss and/or Disturbance payment). TA tenants and private sector tenants of leaseholders are not eligible for compensation payments.	Remains the same. As from the Cabinet decisions of 17.7.25 eligible LPS secure tenant households permanently moving out of the blocks will be entitled to a compensation payment (Home Loss and/or Disturbance payment). TA tenants and private sector tenants of leaseholders are not eligible for compensation payments.
Number of Bedrooms	Based on Housing Need The number of bedrooms a household require will be assessed on housing need and bedroom standards/number of bedrooms required, in line with the current Allocations Policy.	Like-for-like offer: Households are entitled to the same number of bedrooms they have now unless overcrowded - they will get a larger property based on their housing need; or less bedrooms if they want to downsize to a smaller property and avoid under-occupancy
Downsizing Benefits	Priority Band A for downsizers and transfer incentive payments where eligible	Remains the same - Priority Band A for downsizers and incentive payments where eligible
Application Process	Tenants will still need to complete a Homemove application but there won't be any financial checks. However, they will still need to provide medical evidence and household composition information and evidence/proof for verification purposes.	Remains the same Tenants will still need to complete a Homemove application but there won't be any financial checks. However, they will still need to provide medical evidence and household composition information and evidence/proof for verification purposes.
Who Can Apply to move	Any secure tenant in an LPS block is now eligible to apply to transfer with effect from 17.7.25 cabinet decision.	Remains the same - Any secure tenant in an LPS block is eligible to transfer with effect from 17.7.25 cabinet decision.

Appendix 4- LPS Rehousing Allocation– Comparison Table (Updated at 27.1.26)

Topic	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Permanent moves from July 2025	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Proposed Enhanced Offer in the draft Local Lettings Plan for permanent moves from end of March 2026 (subject to Cabinet agreement)
Priority Banding	All LPS secure tenants will be given Priority Band B Management transfer unless already on a higher banding Homemove will be contacting any LPS secure tenants who already have an open Homemove application and are currently below Band B.	Remains the same - All LPS secure tenants will be given Priority Band B Management transfer unless already on a higher banding
Priority for Properties	No current priority to LPS applicants	The plan will create a new priority category for LPS secure tenants – adverts will say “priority to LPS”. This will not include mobility rated properties. Priority will be given on a block basis in sequential order in line with the regeneration programme, ie St James’s House, followed by Nettleton and Dudeney, and then the North Whitehawk blocks. However, there will be flexibility to prioritise households across the LPS blocks where this is an urgent need to move them sooner ie for medical, disability/ mobility, fire safety or safeguarding reasons. All applicants on the housing register will continue to be able to bid on all other eligible properties being advertised.
Who can be included in the housing application?	Eligibility for housing is defined in the Allocations Policy (ie who can be included in the household application)	Remains the same - Eligibility for housing as defined in the Allocations Policy (ie who can be included in the household application)
Effective (Priority) Date	In line with current Allocations Policy ie Effective (Priority) date agreed and notified when assessment completed & applicant accepted on to the register based on	Remains the same – in line with current Allocations Policy however new LPS Priority category for advertised properties will be applied.

Appendix 4- LPS Rehousing Allocation- Comparison Table (Updated at 27.1.26)

Topic	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Permanent moves from July 2025	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Proposed Enhanced Offer in the draft Local Lettings Plan for permanent moves from end of March 2026 (subject to Cabinet agreement)
	information/evidence provided within the assessment. Date is backdated to date of application.	However, there will be flexibility to prioritise households in LPS blocks where this is an urgent need to move them sooner in exceptional circumstances or to meet a strategic aim.
Mobility-Adapted Homes	Mobility Rating assessed and priority given i.e Mob 1, Mob 2 or Mob 3. Mobility rated properties will continue to be eligible for bidding on by all mobility rated households. No priority for LPS tenants.	Remains the same. Mobility Rating assessed and priority given i.e Mob 1, Mob 2 or Mob 3. Mobility rated properties will continue to be eligible for bidding on by all mobility rated households. No priority for LPS tenants.
Rent Levels	No social rent guarantee - Rent will be as advertised for that property	Guarantee of similar rent i.e. "social rent" offers for direct let offers, but to ensure the widest choice of properties available, we can also offer properties at other rents e.g. Affordable or living rents e.g. some new builds and buybacks, through the choice based lettings process as well as direct lets. Where bidding on properties through Homemove - it will always be at the advertised rent for that property.
Direct Offers	Not all properties becoming available for letting will be offered through choice-based lettings. The council reserves the right to make a direct offer of a property at any time to an applicant in exceptional circumstances, or where doing so would meet the council's strategic aims. BHCC can only agree direct offers into BHCC housing stock.	Remains the same. Direct offers follow current Allocations Policy. The council reserves the right to make a direct offer of a property at any time to an applicant in exceptional circumstances, or where doing so would meet the council's strategic aims. BHCC can only agree direct offers into BHCC housing stock.
Number of Offers	Not specified yet.	The LLP is proposing that 2 offers of suitable accommodation will be made.

Appendix 4- LPS Rehousing Allocation– Comparison Table (Updated at 27.1.26)

Topic	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Permanent moves from July 2025	LPS SECURE TENANTS ONLY Proposed Enhanced Offer in the draft Local Lettings Plan for permanent moves from end of March 2026 (subject to Cabinet agreement)
Refusing Properties	Grounds for Refusing a property and the review process are set out in the Allocations Policy	Remains the same - Grounds for Refusing a property and the review process are set out in the Allocations Policy
Time to Bid	<p>Currently no set timescale for bidding for transfers. However, in the case of a final offer - timescales for Bidding are currently 3 months, before bidding is restricted and a direct offer made.</p> <p>For the LPS blocks, timescales for bidding will need to reflect the deadline for a building to be emptied – i.e. in line with the Initial, Interim Notice and Final Notice of Demolition. This will be clarified in the final Local Lettings Plan following the formal consultation process.</p>	<p>Timescales for bidding will need to reflect the deadline for a building to be emptied – i.e. in line with the Initial, Interim and Final Notice of Demolition for each block.</p> <p>It will also be dependent on the availability/supply of suitable accommodation to meet the needs of the household.</p> <p>Rehousing officers will work closely with individual households to ensure timely moves, with some flexibility on timescales. However, in the case of a final offer, bidding may be restricted and a direct offer made to ensure compliance with the demolition deadlines.</p>

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