

LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans) People's Housing Strategy

executive summary



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Published by

Brighton & Hove City Council, Housing Strategy Team,
4th Floor Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square,
Brighton BN1 1JE

Copies of our strategies are available from:

t: 01273 293055

e: housing.strategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk

w: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingstrategy

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those members of the public, service users, staff and partner organisations who have taken the time to share their views, opinions and stories with us. These conversations have helped shaped our own understanding of the needs of local people and ultimately set the direction and priorities of this draft strategy. We would particularly like to thank the members of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans Housing & Support Working Group for their continued support and commitment.

Housing Strategy 2009-2014

healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city

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إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ترجمة لهذه المعلومات، يرجى وضع علامة ✓ في الصندوق المناسب، ثم إرسال هذه الوثيقة إلى العنوان المبين في أسفل هذه الصفحة.

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যদি আপনি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে যথাযথ বক্সে টিক দিন এবং এ পৃষ্ঠার নীচের ঠিকানায় এ কাগজটি পাঠিয়ে দিন।

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Cantonese ☐

Eğer bu bilgilerin tercümesini isterseniz, lütfen en uygun kutuyu işaretleyip, bu dokümanı altta belirtilen adrese geri iade ediniz.

Turkish ☐

اگر مایلید این اطلاعات برای شما ترجمه شود خواهشمند است جعبه مربوطه را ضربه بزنید، سپس این مدارک را به نشانی درج شده در انتهای این صفحه ارسال نمایید.

Farsi ☐

Other (please state)

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About this Strategy

The LGBT People's Housing Strategy is being developed to address important citywide issues that affect the LGBT population of Brighton & Hove – both now and in the future. Recent research shows that there are particular housing issues for LGBT people. Risks of homelessness are high; many LGBT people move to the city at an early age to be part of a supportive LGBT community, and find it difficult to find safe, suitable, affordable places to live. Trans people face the possibility of losing home and job during transition and after. Also, whether homeless, in rented housing or as owner-occupiers, LGBT people are at high risk of harassment and hate crime.

Not only does the LGBT People's Housing Strategy help us address the needs of the city's LGBT population over the next five years, it also gives us an opportunity to create a framework of mutual respect, involvement and understanding that sets high standards and lays the foundations for meeting the needs and aspirations of the future LGBT population.

If you have any questions or comments about this strategy, please contact:

Housing Strategy Team (LGBT)
Brighton & Hove City Council
4th Floor Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton BN1 1JE

Or email them to housing.strategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Foreword

Brighton & Hove's LGBT communities are an integral part of our city's public face and make a great contribution to its identity. In business, in the arts, in academia and in the community, Brighton and Hove continues to benefit from the work of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people who help to make our city an exciting and diverse place to live, work and socialise. The city's Pride events, LGBT History Month, the 'village' of Kemptown and the thriving LGBT retail, leisure and community sectors attract visitors and new residents from all over the world.

Stephanie Scott
Chair of the
LGBT Housing &
Support Working
Group

There is however, a growing body of evidence to support the notion that the LGBT communities of Brighton & Hove have specific housing needs. While cities are often challenging in terms of their housing, with high costs and overcrowding very common among metropolitan areas, we are improving our understanding of the risks attached to LGBT people's housing needs. These include, we believe, higher than usual risks of mental health problems, domestic violence and abuse, homelessness, and sexual exploitation.

We have done much to minimise these risks over the past few years, and by working in partnership, the community sector and the Council can now begin to plan services across the city together, to make sure that the most vulnerable LGBT people have access to the services they need.

This strategy aims to recognise the importance of housing issues to LGBT people's quality of life, and help us work together to find ways to remove barriers and create opportunities for LGBT people. We want to make sure council housing and support services are accessible to all LGBT people who need them, in all their diversity. We want to signal our readiness to provide excellent services to LGBT communities by helping to develop a 'Rainbow Charter Mark'.



Councillor Maria
Caulfield
Cabinet Member
for Housing

We want to increase our contribution to community safety for LGBT people, working more efficiently in partnership with colleagues in the police service and Partnership Community Safety Teams.

We want to monitor more closely the contracts of housing and support services commissioned by the Council, so that we can be sure they are all accessible and welcoming to the LGBT community.

Above all, we want to continue to work closely together with LGBT communities as we design and review our services, policies and strategies, so that we have a really responsive set of citywide services that reflects the needs of the whole community.

This is the first time the city has developed an LGBT Housing Strategy. This work has only become possible through a new partnership – the **LGBT Housing & Support Working Group**. The work of this group brings together statutory services and community representatives to address the issues facing LGBT people in housing need in the city.

We want our strategy to make a genuine difference to the lives of LGBT people in the city. If you have any questions, or wish to take part in reviewing this strategy, please contact the Housing Strategy team at the address given above.



Stephanie Scott
Chair of the LGBT Housing &
Support Working Group

Councillor Maria Caulfield
Cabinet Member for Housing

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Our Strategic Housing Vision for Brighton & Hove

The LGBT People's Housing Strategy is part of a group of housing related strategies that supports the overarching ***Housing Strategy 2009-2014: healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city***, sharing the same united vision:

Enabling healthy homes, healthy lives and a healthy city that reduces inequality and offers independence, choice and a high quality of life

Other supporting strategies include the BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) People's Housing Strategy and the Older People's Housing Strategy.

Objectives of the LGBT People's Housing Strategy

The objectives of this strategy are specific to the needs of LGBT people but also support the wider Housing Strategy:

- Objective 1** Plan and provide accessible, welcoming and safe housing and support services that are responsive to the needs of LGBT people and promote their health and well-being
- Objective 2** Plan and provide housing and support services that contribute to LGBT community safety and challenge harassment, discrimination and hate crime
- Objective 3** Plan and provide housing and support services in consultation with the LGBT community

Each objective has a number of strategic goals that outline the main actions and success criteria for this strategy.

Making a Difference

Over the lifetime of this strategy we would like to achieve:

- Improved access to inclusive housing and support services for vulnerable LGBT people
- An increased contribution to community safety by housing and support services
- Contract monitoring across all services to embed LGBT awareness in services we commission
- Effective and regular community engagement in service and policy design and review

Our Strategic Principles

The Housing Strategy outlines 6 principles that underpin all of the work we do and equally apply to this strategy:

- A healthy city
- Reducing inequality
- Improving neighbourhoods
- Accountability to local people
- Value for money
- Partnership working

Health Impact Assessment

We recognise that housing plays an important part of all aspects of people's lives, particularly health and well-being. As part of the development of this strategy the Primary Care Trust has carried out a Health Impact Assessment on the city's housing stock and housing needs. The results of this assessment are helping us to ensure that our strategy and action plans contribute to improving the health and well-being of local people.

1.2 Engaging Local People

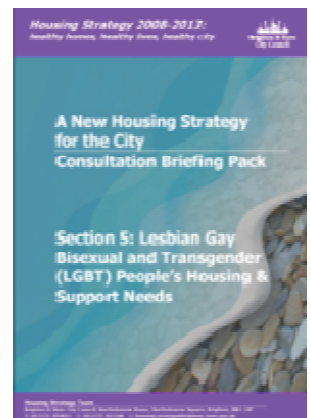
Effective engagement with LGBT people is at the heart of this strategy. We developed the strategy in stages with extensive consultation with stakeholders to ensure it meets the needs and aspirations of the city's LGBT people.

Feedback from LGBT people has highlighted that housing is a difficult issue for many. Research indicates that LGBT people in the city are at higher than usual risk of homelessness, harassment and hate crime. Providing safe and welcoming housing and support services that are responsive to these needs and support LGBT people's aspirations of independent life is a vital part of our work.

Strategy Consultation

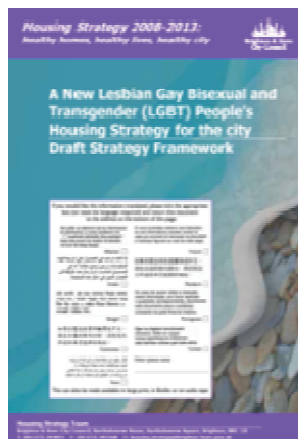
The first round of consultation was undertaken over a period of 3 months in summer 2007, giving local residents the opportunity to comment on a Consultation Briefing Pack covering different aspects of housing and support. The pack was available on the council website and throughout the city in libraries and other public places. It was also sent out to many voluntary organisations and residents.

Officers went out into the community, attended social functions, service user groups meetings and other events such as Spectrum's Bi and Trans Working Group to seek the views of local people, and we held a dedicated event for LGBT service providers and service users.



Case Study: LGBT Housing & Support Working Group

Whilst developing the strategy we set up an LGBT Housing & Support Working Group made up of representatives from a wide range of LGBT people's support and advocacy groups, the community and voluntary sector, the Partnership Community Safety Team and the local authority. This group, facilitated by the council and chaired by Spectrum, has reviewed each stage of the strategy development process and made many valuable contributions to our strategic priorities and action plan.



The second round of consultation concentrated on the Strategy Framework – our proposed priorities and actions developed from the findings of first round of consultation. This has resulted in changes to our priorities and been used to help develop this draft strategy and action plan.

The third round of consultation looked closely at the draft strategy, which was circulated widely in paper form among the community and voluntary sector for comment, hosted on both Spectrum's and the council's website, and also formed the basis of a large number of discussions in both internal and external meetings with various stakeholders. The results have been fed into the strategy wherever possible in order to help reflect the community's wishes for the future of LGBT housing & support services.

We do not want consultation to end with the publication of this strategy, but would like it to be a part of an ongoing process, involving local people and other stakeholders throughout its life, helping us to monitor its implementation and review our services.

1.3 The Goals of this Strategy

Each objective has a range of strategic goals that will be developed and implemented throughout the lifetime of this strategy. Each strategic goal will also have subsidiary actions.

Strategic Objective 1: Plan and provide accessible, welcoming and safe housing and support services that are responsive to the needs of LGBT people and promote their health and well-being

Our strategic goals under this first objective are to:

Goal 1 Work towards comprehensive monitoring and reporting of levels of service use, outcomes, satisfaction and complaints by LGBT identity

- Goal 2 Promote LGBT awareness in services we commission, through training, support, monitoring and if necessary through enforcement
- Goal 3 Respond to the findings of the detailed housing analysis commissioned from the Count Me In Too data
- Goal 4 Improve housing choice, support and independence for LGBT people with mental health or substance misuse needs, young LGBT people, older LGBT people, bi people, trans people, people living with HIV and those suffering multiple disadvantage
- Goal 5 Improve links between housing and support services and community support networks for LGBT people

Strategic Objective 2: Plan and provide housing and support services that contribute to LGBT community safety and challenge harassment, discrimination and hate crime

Our strategic goals to help deliver this objective are to:

- Goal 6 Work with community partners to make sure that our services are welcoming and able to respond effectively and appropriately to LGBT harassment and hate crime
- Goal 7 Train more frontline housing staff in how to recognise and report LGBT harassment and hate crime
- Goal 8 Work more closely with the Police, the Partnership Community Safety Team and the new LGBT casework panel to make sure that cases of LGBT harassment and hate crime are safely reported,

correctly recorded, and successfully resolved, including by prosecution where appropriate

Goal 9 Take action as a housing provider where we can against perpetrators of harassment and hate crime and promote LGBT awareness in the wider community

Goal 10 Work to prevent homelessness caused by domestic and sexual violence and abuse, against LGBT people and in LGBT relationships and households

Strategic Objective 3: Plan and provide housing and support services in consultation with the LGBT community

Our strategic goals to help engage LGBT people are to:

Goal 11 Continue to support and develop the LGBT Housing & Support Working Group

Goal 12 Consult LGBT community groups and service users when we carry out Equality Impact Assessments on our strategies and services

Goal 13 Work with community and voluntary sector LGBT services to help them develop a 'Rainbow Charter Mark' to reward quality services for LGBT people and signal their availability to LGBT communities

Goal 14 Work with the LGBT Housing & Support Working Group to meet the need for LGBT support services either within or commissioned by the council

Goal 15 Work with the LGBT Housing & Support Working Group to meet the need for a LGBT Housing Options Officer

1.4 Local Area Agreement

The Brighton & Hove Local Area Agreement (LAA) sets out the priorities for the city and has been agreed between the Government, the local authority, the Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners.

A key local indicator specifically relating to LGBT communities has been included in the LAA which directly relates to the second objective of this strategy:

- Number of police recorded LGBT hate crimes and incidents

As housing has such wide reaching effects on people's lives, our strategy also contributes to a wider range of performance indicators:

The priorities and goals of this strategy contribute to the following National Indicators for Local Authority Partnerships:

- **NI 1: Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds who get on well together in their local area**
- **NI 17: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour**
- NI 21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
- NI 23: Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity
- NI 25: Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour
- NI 27: Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
- **NI 32: Repeat incidents of domestic violence**
- **NI 119: Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing**
- NI 140: Fair treatment by local services
- **NI 141: Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living**
- NI 142: Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living
- NI 160: Local Authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services

(Indicators in bold are also included in Brighton & Hove's Local Area Agreement)

Copies of our strategies are available from:

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