



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities (HNC) -
Implementing the Joint Health & Wellbeing
Strategy**

Health and Wellbeing Board 26th January 2021

Rachel Sharpe

Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities

The HNC Directorate covers the following areas:

- Housing (Council housing, Housing Strategy, Housing Supply, Private Sector Housing, Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness, Travellers)
- Libraries and information services
- Safer Communities (Environmental Health, Licensing, Trading Standards Emergency Planning, Prevent, ASB and Casework team, Domestic Violence services, Field Officers)
- Communities, Equalities & Third Sector (community engagement and collaboration, lead on the council's equality duties, community and voluntary sector commissioning & support)

Service data

- Landlord to approximately 11,500 council tenants and 2,900 leaseholders
- Around 2,000 households in temporary accommodation, including 800 in emergency housing
- 7,800 on the housing waiting list
- 14 libraries
- Over 1.4 million people visit our libraries every year
- 1600 referrals for domestic violence and abuse between April and December 2020
- 3645 noise complaints requiring investigation between April and December 2020
- 200 third sector organisations commissioned to support council services

Nearly all services under increasing pressure during pandemic – from more than double the spend on temporary accommodation to a doubling in libraries home delivery service.

“Brighton and Hove will be a place which helps people keep healthy”

Using libraries to improve wellbeing and access to arts & culture:

- **Improve the wellbeing of vulnerable people** through collaborative working with other service providers and support organisations such as: Mind, Alzheimer’s Society; Carers Centre; Possibility people (supporting people with disabilities); community nurses, etc.
- **Reduce stigma** through exhibitions and activities such as:
 - *There’s More to Me than HIV*, online exhibition for World AIDS Day in December 2020
 - Living Libraries, where we have worked in partnership with Mind and Rise, to enable people to learn more about mental health conditions and domestic violence
- **Volunteering** opportunities such as delivering books to people at home, supporting events and activities in libraries, shelving books, etc. offering opportunities for skills development, and reducing isolation

“Brighton and Hove will be a place which helps people keep healthy”

- Increasing **access to advice** from agencies such as Citizens Advice, Pensions Advice, and Money Advice Service
- **Library of Sanctuary** – Jubilee Library achieved Library of Sanctuary status in June 2020. Libraries work to support asylum seekers and refugees, e.g. Welcome to the city events, hosting weekly meetings of the Network Of International Women.
- **Alleviating period poverty** - free sanitary products (supplied by a range of local organisations) to those who need them at Jubilee, Portslade and Hangleton Libraries
- Free access to reading and bookgroups

“Brighton and Hove will be a place which helps people keep healthy”

Tackling Homelessness:

New Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy agreed in July 2020

Key commitments include –

- More emphasis on prevention & early intervention work
- Better alignment – particularly Housing Options & street outreach service
- Closer partnership working with voluntary sector & other agencies
- Develop better tenancy sustainment support
- Improved staff training

“Brighton and Hove will be a place which helps people keep healthy”

- Develop 800 additional council homes
- Develop 700 other new homes
- Improving private rented housing
- Research and develop a social lettings agency
- Ensure homeless people are involved in the early design and development of services which directly affect them.
- Develop the enforcement approach to private sector housing to reflect the full
- range of potential options available to improve management and standards.
- Expand Housing First

“Brighton and Hove will be a place which helps people keep healthy”

Keeping residents safe, warm and well in their homes

- Developing asset management strategy to ensure investment to improve housing
- Major investment programme to improve energy efficiency and warmer homes
- Developing strategy to improve housing conditions and particularly energy efficiency for private sector housing
- Housing co-produced the Council’s ‘Fuel Poverty & Affordable Warmth Strategy’ with Public Health and co-chair the multi-agency steering group that has taken forward the action plan related to this, again with public health

“Brighton and Hove will be a place which helps people keep healthy”

- Initiatives include - annual Warmth for Wellbeing programme, SHINE project, Warm Safe Homes Grant, support to local organisations including BHESCO, the Lions Club and National Energy Action
- Comprehensive Community Safety Partnership Strategy agreed September 2020
- Commissioning DV support services in the City to tackle and protect people from domestic abuse

“The health & wellbeing of children & young people in Brighton & Hove will be improved”

- Libraries distribute **Bookstart** packs – free books to every child in the city at two key stages before school, as well as free packs for children with additional needs. Reading for pleasure has a dramatic impact on educational outcomes, wellbeing and social mobility
- Events and activities to support children’s development and learning, including; Baby Boogie, Story time, Arts & crafts activities
- School-aged children’s wellbeing is supported through special collections, booklists, Summer reading challenge to maintain or improve reading performance of children over the summer holidays etc.
- Working with businesses to ensure that they do not sell age restricted products to young people including bespoke training

“The health and wellbeing of working age adults in Brighton & Hove will be improved”

- Community engagement team acts as bridges between services and residents to improve collaboration and asset based working
- Anti-racism work has focus on underlying causes of health inequality for Black, Asian and minoritized residents
- Developing an accessible city strategy to help tackle underpinning health inequalities for disabled residents
- £1.9m investment in Third sector commission – extends services via more than 100 groups & specialist projects, covering disabilities, mental health, food poverty, exclusion, participation, support, advice etc.
- CETS facilitate the City Volunteering Partnership and fund the Volunteer Centre to improve the quality and accessibility of volunteering in the city

“The health and wellbeing of working age adults in Brighton & Hove will be improved”

- Community development commissioning (circa £300k annually) across neighbourhoods which builds their social capital and resilience and agency
- Commissions the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund (circa £50k annually) and the Estates Development Budget (circa £350K annually) – both aimed at improving the quality of life in neighbourhoods/estates
- CETS support all services to consider the diverse population of the city and to ensure they are accessible to all
- CETS support communities to develop projects that counter the harms of hate and build cohesion
- Commissioning engagement with communities based on their protected characteristics to ensure their experiences and needs are heard and understood
- A robust Statement of Licensing policy that will not grant new licenses in certain parts of the City other than in exceptional circumstances

“Brighton & Hove will be a place where people can age well”

- Older People Housing Needs Assessment completed in autumn 2019. Views of older people to better understand their housing aspirations was an important element & the assessment informs a number of council services and forms the basis for local policy making. Now a background document for City Plan Part 2.
- 2019 review undertaken on the Council's 23 seniors housing schemes. Schemes assessed against contemporary standards of good design and new design standard for future developments/refurbishments proposed.
- Housing adaptations service ensures more than 300 households benefit from adaptations to live more independently and stay in their own homes for longer
- Specification for council new builds covers lifetime homes standards and accessible public realm design
- Libraries **Home Delivery Services (HDS)** – delivering books to people who find it difficult to leave their own homes, most are elderly.
- Libraries **Equal Access Services** – delivering books to people in residential homes, supporting residents' mental health and wellbeing.

