

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 46d

Subject: Inequality and Life Outcomes in Brighton & Hove

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Councillor McLeay

Seconded: Councillor Davis

Ward(s) affected: All

Green Group Amendment

This council notes:

- 1) That the UK remains one of the most unequal countries in the developed world, with child poverty rising sharply under the previous government¹ **and continues to rise under the current Government.**
- 2) That inequality is particularly stark in Brighton & Hove, with a recent Sutton Trust report highlighting that parts of our city have some of the lowest social mobility in the country.²
- 3) The steps already taken locally to tackle inequality; creating a fairness fund to directly support residents; priority school admissions for those on Free School Meals; new school bus routes and free bus passes for Whitehawk families; free school meals for those educated at home. **Unfortunately, further action is hindered by a lack of central Government funding.**
- 4) Government's steps to alleviate child poverty including expanding eligibility for Free School Meals and signals that the former Coalition Government's two child benefit cap will be scrapped **and recognises the current Government have had over a year to cancel the two-child benefit cap.**
- 5) The welcome news from government of £20m for Whitehawk through the Pride in Place programme, with local residents directly shaping how funding will be invested.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Request the relevant Cabinet Member to consider a formal review of inequality in the city, and the impact **the two-child benefit cap, winter fuel benefit cuts, and tightening of PIP eligibility rules have** on life chances;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-poverty-developing-our-strategy/tackling-child-poverty-developing-our-strategy-html>

² <https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/The-Opportunity-Index.pdf>

drawing on lived experience, and welcoming input from residents and experts in a 'call for evidence'

- 2) ***Send results of this review directly to Rt Hon Briget Phillipson MP as Minister for Women and Equalities and ask for Royal Commission to look into how to end poverty.***

Recommendations to read if carried:

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- 2) That inequality is particularly stark in Brighton & Hove, with a recent Sutton Trust report highlighting that parts of our city have some of the lowest social mobility in the country.⁴
- 3) The steps already taken locally to tackle inequality; creating a fairness fund to directly support residents; priority school admissions for those on Free School Meals; new school bus routes and free bus passes for Whitehawk families; free school meals for those educated at home. Unfortunately, further action is hindered by a lack of central Government funding.
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- 1) Request the relevant Cabinet Member to consider a formal review of inequality in the city, and the impact the two-child benefit cap, winter fuel benefit cuts, and tightening of PIP eligibility rules have on life chances; drawing on lived experience, and welcoming input from residents and experts in a 'call for evidence'
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