



The Equalities Engagement Consortium

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

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

11th January 2012

Dear Mary,

Re: Proposed budget for 2012-4

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

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

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

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

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

Kind regards,

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