



COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR: THE FABRIC OF OUR CITY.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM
ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Portsmouth Community Project/Forum Preston Park Day Centre
Road & Claremont Forum
Advocacy C.I.C. Aldington Team Ministry Alternatives Pregnancy Counselling Centre Anchor Staying Put Another London Road As You Are Counselling B&H & District Leaseholders Assn
Phoenix Community Centre
Peace Messenger Patched CRI
Brighton Housing Trust (BHT) Brighton Orpheus Choir Brighton Rock Housing Co-op Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project Brighton Youth Centre British Computer Society Brunswick Westward
North Portslade Community Newspaper
North Hangleton Residents Association
Sussex Multiple Sclerosis Treatment Centre
Sussex Skills for Life Development Centre
Sussex County Playing Fields Association
Sussex Central YMCA - Housing Services
Sussex Bangladesh Association
Sussex Arts Marketing
Sussex Aphasia Self Help (SASH)
Sussex Women and Children
Sussex Network (Sussex)
Sussex Multiple Sclerosis Treatment Centre
Sussex Skills for Life Development Centre
Sussex County Playing Fields Association
Sussex Central YMCA - Housing Services
Sussex Bangladesh Association
Sussex Arts Marketing
Sussex Aphasia Self Help (SASH)
Sussex Women and Children
Sussex Network (Sussex)



THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

The community and voluntary sector is the fabric of our city – it brings people together and provides much needed support to local citizens. Like a patchwork quilt we are all different but work together, with CVSF being a common thread, in order to strengthen the sector's potential and voice. Thank you to our elected representatives, who have been particularly successful this year in strengthening this voice.

As this annual report shows we have refreshed our themed position statements which summarise the sector's vision in relation to citywide priorities. These have been used by CVSF's elected representatives to influence policies and plans in all sorts of ways. As a rep myself, I have seen first hand how the sector's collective experience and expertise really has made a difference. Similarly some extremely effective and impressive lobbying by the LINk (which CVSF is proud to host) has improved local health and social care services.

CVSF continues to develop the wider services we provide to members. Members report that they particularly like our regular briefing papers, helping to translate important news and information. We've more networking and events than ever before and in the changing external environment, collaboration will be critical to the sector's future success.


To this end, I call upon all CVSF members to participate in shaping our new 2011-2014 strategic plan and CVSF's future role in supporting and leading the sector in the city.



Simon J Lewis

Simon Lewis Chair

What a difference a year can make! We've a new government defining future policy for the community and voluntary sector and locally, we are promised new ways of partnership working and a move towards 'intelligent commissioning', led by the City Council. The operating environment is barely recognisable from this time last year, yet in all this, the community and voluntary sector remains a constant.



The skills, knowledge and experience of tens of thousands of volunteers and more than 8,000 paid staff in our sector are supporting local people through challenging times. Community and voluntary sector services consistently provide excellent value for money while hundreds of smaller groups in the city carry out a world of independent activity which we sometimes take for granted. Together we are working towards all of the aims in the city's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which this report reflects; we are already Brighton and Hove's Big Society.

Our support to members has flexed in response to the changing environment; we have been working hard to ensure changes around commissioning are meaningful for the sector so that opportunities can be maximised. There is more work to do here and we are very aware that for smaller groups, commissioning might not be of interest, or not accessible; this needs to change.

CVSF has at the same time consistently raised the profile of the sector in the city and strengthened partnership working. And we know that our core information and events services provide important continuous support.

I am grateful to all the members, reps, staff and trustees who have contributed to CVSF's achievements this year. Your constant commitment and energy to our collective effort is always a source of inspiration.

S. Polanski

Sally Polanski CEO

The Self Managed Learning College supports students to set their own learning goals and work with others to achieve them. "We learn about things that interest us. Self Managed Learning provides a supportive structure for this. We are given help with timetabling our week and organizing the resources we need. Staff offer individual guidance and support, but don't dictate what we should learn. We help shape the centre into a place where we feel comfortable and happy; successful learning comes from this".



SELF MANAGED LEARNING COLLEGE

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

A vibrant, socially and culturally diverse place with a wide range of job opportunities supported by accessible child care. A city that supports businesses to grow, encourages investment, innovation and a healthy and sustainable economy, and actively promotes learning and training opportunities for people of all ages.



FRIENDS CENTRE

Friends Centre, established in 1945, is an education centre based in Brighton & Hove. Our mission is to:

- Help learners achieve their aspirations and meet the challenges they face
- Stimulate community interest and involvement
- Promote inclusion, social justice, environmental sustainability and international understanding.

Each year, we provide opportunities to engage around 1,550 people from a diverse range of backgrounds to learn together in a welcoming and supportive environment.

PROMOTING ENTERPRISE AND LEARNING

Brighton and Hove is a complex city as far as enterprise and learning is concerned. 9% of the working age population have no formal qualifications and 20% of dependent children in the city live in households with no working adults, earnings in the city are also below the national average. But, the city also has a highly skilled workforce and a high number of graduates, 38% being qualified to degree level or above. *

Over 30 organisations in CVSF's membership provide training and education activities, and support to people seeking volunteering and employment opportunities.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Developing the local job market

Brighton and Hove lacks good, flexible job alternatives to minimum-wage service jobs. A major priority for CVSF members is to create a wider range of job opportunities for people on low incomes, people with low skills and people seeking to work part-time.

Supporting people entering work, volunteering, and learning opportunities

Many individuals, both young and old and from a variety of communities, require extra support to take steps into volunteering, employment and learning opportunities. This support is varied and needs to be tailored to individuals circumstances but may include help with language, developing study skills, personal development support, special equipment, support during life's transitions, as well as childcare or carers costs and safe spaces for young people to go to whilst parents are at work or studying.

Providing better access to learning and training

To advance residents' career prospects a variety of learning facilities, ways of learning, and a range of both formal and informal learning and training opportunities need to be offered. Offering childcare, and supporting people with key needs such as people with learning disabilities will greatly enable access to training and learning opportunities.



CVSF

533 members who are community groups, voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises (as at October 2010)

* taken from the Sustainable Communities Strategy



"Safety Squad is a nice place where you can have a chat and talk about what you can do to help your community at the same time." Dylan, 9 years.

"We feel unsafe in our parks because older children have put horrible graffiti on the play equipment we chose to be there." Ethan, 9 years.

"Emma arranged for us to meet a lady from the council. She has agreed to remove the ugly and hurtful graffiti." Lara, 9 years.

BEVENDEAN SAFETY SQUAD

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

A place in which children, young people and adults can be and feel safe by the fair enforcement of the law and preventing and reducing crime and fear of crime.



STREET PASTORS

Brighton and Hove's bar and club culture is important to the city's economy, but there is no doubt it can have a devastating impact. We are a group of volunteers from local churches who welcome people to the West Street area, assist people who are lost or need directions and help those whose use of drink and drugs has left them vulnerable. We work in partnership with all the other agencies operating in the area (in particular with SafeSpace) to make it a safer place.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AT:

www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/belonging/members-directory

REDUCING CRIME AND IMPROVING SAFETY

The city's crime level is currently the lowest for 10 years*. However, there are concerns about alcohol and its impact on crime, and the number of young people who are victims of abuse and crime (such as bullying and homophobic bullying). The fear of crime which can make people feel unsafe in parks and open spaces and even in their own neighbourhoods and communities also remains high. Many CVSF members run projects and activities which not only help local people to feel safe, but which also support victims of crime and help prevent crime in the first place.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Working with young people

Young people are both the victims of crime as well as sometimes the perpetrators of crime. By empowering and supporting young people to have a voice in crime prevention priorities and community safety strategies, as well as enabling young people to have access to their own facilities and run their own activities in their neighbourhoods, the potential for anti-social behaviour will be reduced. Young people will have safe spaces to go and be less likely to become victims of crime.

Undertaking prevention work

Positive activities which empower and bring together individuals, neighbourhoods and communities can help to promote personal and collective responsibilities and prevent crime and increase community safety. Education, awareness raising and learning activities also help to prevent community safety problems and can help to tackle the root causes of crime.

Some local facts *

*The first 6 months of 2007/8 saw a 10% reduction in crime compared to the year before.

Alcohol is a factor in at least 40% of violent crime.

2,076 children under 5 visited A&E after an accident in the home (2008/9).

* taken from the Sustainable Communities Strategy



CVSF

Almost 500 people attended 10 events during the year, and 12 network meetings brought together members from similar work areas to share information and good practice and discuss local issues.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

A place where there is a shared vision to improve health, care and well-being for everyone living and working in the city and for generations to come, by improving the conditions which influence our health, and by promoting healthy lifestyles, treating illnesses, providing care and support and reducing inequalities in health.



LIMITED EDITIONS

Limited Editions is a mental health recovery service that offers wellbeing support whilst providing a work environment enabling people to pick up new skills and experiences. The service offers a range of activities focusing on enhancing people's creative and business ability, the main activities are woodwork, metal work, art and design.

The project supports and empowers people to gain more access, choice and control over the activities that shape their daily lives, providing clear pathways to develop their work aspirations into reality. This enables people to make a significant contribution to society, whilst improving their own sense of achievement and self-worth.



CARE CO-OPS

Care co-operatives is passionate about improving the quality of life and life chances for adults from disadvantaged groups, in particular people with mental health support needs, people with a learning disability and people with employment support needs. Care Co-ops offers a supportive and creative environment for people to develop their potential to live full and active lives.

Our teams support and empower people in all areas of daily life, including work, learning, leisure and social life.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our health and wellbeing is inextricably linked to where we live, how we work, the relationships we have with other people and the environment around us. Reducing health inequalities across the city is a challenge. Life expectancy in Queens Park Ward, one of the city's most deprived wards, is 74.4 years - 8 years less than in Brunswick and Adelaide Ward, one of the city's more affluent wards (Office of National Statistics). The city also has one of the highest rates of drug related deaths in England and Wales, and a large population of the city has mental health issues; around one in seven adults in the city are anxious or depressed.*

While each and every member of CVSF improves the wellbeing of local people in some way, there are almost 40 groups in CVSF membership who work very specifically to improve the health and wellbeing of the city's residents.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Emphasise preventative measures

Invest in services to prevent people from becoming ill such as counselling services, physiotherapy, family and carers support groups, befriending and mediation services and neighbourhood care schemes. Environmental considerations should also be recognised as having a major impact on residents' health, as should the impact on good health and wellbeing of inequalities, poverty, and lack of access to fresh food shops.

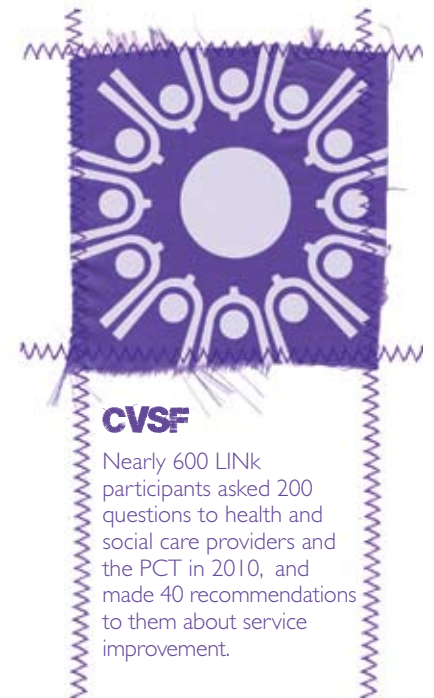
More local health services and facilities

There is a need for more local health service provision within communities which support residents at a local level. Key local health services include mental health services; advice for young people on drugs, sexual health, smoking, and healthy lifestyle options; services for older people to prevent isolation and increase physical health; GPs, dentists, chemists, and local sports facilities.

* taken from the Sustainable Communities Strategy

Targeted interventions

Target appropriate solutions to health issues to particular communities, and develop services which recognise the barriers some individuals and groups face in getting healthcare. Particular communities of interest who may have particular health needs include substance misusers, lone parents, LGBT people, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with mental health issues, young people, and older people.



CVSF

Nearly 600 LINK participants asked 200 questions to health and social care providers and the PCT in 2010, and made 40 recommendations to them about service improvement.

By helping to develop an effective and unified voice, which addresses the causes of social exclusion and promotion of a cohesive community, BMECP are pivotal for a strong and sustainable BME voluntary and community sector. Our groups and activities bring people from different communities together; as an example, ten pin bowling on a Wii is a healthy and fun activity for our elders, which also makes friendships and creates relationships and respect across communities.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVING PEOPLE

The city's unique neighbourhoods and communities are thriving with local community and voluntary activity. From playgroups, sports clubs, faith activities and the arts, to housing, urban food growing, social enterprise and more, we are already an example of how the big society plays out in real life.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Building better relationships

The role of councillors in the community could be better understood, and the links and relationships which exist between them and neighbourhood organisations and groups improved.

The statutory sector should do more outreach, with more direct involvement of councillors and council officers in the community and voluntary sector.

Better relationships between communities of interest and the whole community should be developed in every neighbourhood. Awareness of communities of interest issues should be improved.

Building capacity in neighbourhoods and communities

There is a need to undertake preventative action in communities which will both encourage community cohesion and create savings in the long-term.

Capacity should be built in the city's communities to combat isolation, discrimination and lack of community cohesion.

Communities of interest should be supported to combat social exclusion, in particular older people, lone parents, Black and minority ethnic people, refugee and asylum seekers, substance misusers, homeless people, people with physical or learning disabilities, young people, people with mental health problems, LGBT individuals, people affected by AIDS, women, and travellers.

There is a need to increase residents' confidence and skills.

Improving information, communication, and representation

The impact of engagement needs to be better understood and evidenced.

Community engagement and community development work should be undertaken independently from statutory bodies so that the work and outcomes are needs-led.

Just what can and can't be influenced should be better communicated.

There is a need for representation, co-ordination and action at a neighbourhood level.

Ensure representation doesn't become so complex that the community voice is lost.

Ensure that imbalances in representation are addressed and that paid workers from larger voluntary organisations do not dominate.

Some local facts *

There are thought to be about 1600 community and voluntary sector groups in Brighton and Hove.

The community and voluntary sector contributes £96 million to the local economy each year.

There are 57,600 volunteer hours worked each week.

33% of organisations are involved in providing service contracts, 46% of which come from outside the city.

* from Taking Account 2008: A Social and Economic Audit of the Third Sector in Brighton and Hove

BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC PARTNERSHIP

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

A place where communities are strong, inclusive and cohesive and have opportunities to get involved and influence decision making. A place where individuals are able to take advantage of opportunities to improve their quality of life. A place where the third sector is thriving to enable and support community engagement and provide services to diverse communities.

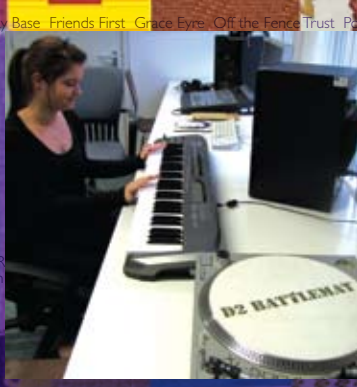


CVSF

Bringing together over 500 members, supporting them with events, information and networking opportunities so they can feed the shared views and positions of the sector to the city's decision making boards is not easy.

For every member there are as many different viewpoints. But our members are amazing, and work together to reach a consensus which they are happy for our elected reps to share. And hopefully, along the way, they acquire knowledge and skills – an added bonus.

Whitehawk Central Tenants & Residents Association
Actually C.I.C. SPARKS (Stonham)
PARK Society
Stones Hill Housing and Support for Young Women
Impact Initiatives
Patcham and Hellingbury Help Group
Mists on Wheels
Impacts
B&H District Council
Spangboard Project
Black & Minority Ethnic Young People's Project
Honeycroft
Brighton Urban Wildlife Group
Brighton Peace & Environment Centre
Hangleton Community School
Peas Corner Community School
Extracurricular Activities
Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership
Extracurricular School Clubs
The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)
Bessian Link Brighton
Newman
District Support
Fun in Action for Children
Patient Friends
Samaritans (Horsham and Crawley)
Roundabout Talking News
B&H LGBT Switchboard



BRIGHTON AND HOVE FOYER

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

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



RISE

Offering emergency accommodation to women and children in crisis situations requires the skill and commitment of our fundraising and communications staff. Without money, we simply could not afford to support the 800 women who use our services every year. Safe refuge accommodation is a first step in enabling women to reclaim their lives and, in time, to move to a secure and affordable home from which they can begin to rebuild their lives.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AT:

www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/belonging/members-directory

Brighton and Hove Foyer provides a safe and secure home with support to 50 young people who have been homeless. We work with each person on an individual support plan; this may mean helping them access education, training and employment, addressing substance misuse issues, supporting them to improve daily living skills such as budgeting and cooking and preparing them to move to more independent accommodation. This work is complemented with activities like camping expeditions, music, art and social activities that improve young people's confidence, social skills and self-esteem.

IMPROVING HOUSING AND AFFORDABILITY

A lack of decent, affordable homes remains a problem in Brighton and Hove. Rough sleeping might be the visible sign of homelessness, but with local house prices still relatively high, and incomes lower than the national average, the housing options for many people are limited and demand for affordable accommodation exceeds supply.

Over 100 CVSF members are involved in housing and housing advice work in the city.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Increasing affordable housing

The supply of affordable housing needs to be increased to meet the demand within the city, particularly for people on low incomes. Inequalities in the quality of housing across different housing tenures and the housing supply within the city should be reduced in order to promote quality of life.

Promoting tenant and resident led organisations

Housing decisions need to involve strong neighbourhood representation and tenant and resident organisations. Co-operative housing is a sustainable and affordable form of housing management which can offer affordable rents, and build the capacity of tenants through tenant management schemes.

Some local facts *

Brighton and Hove has the largest private rented sector in the country (28,000 homes).

About 44,000 homes do not meet the decent homes standard.

Over 1,000 empty homes have been brought back into use since 2002.

399 households were accepted as homeless in 2008/9.

366 households were living in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2009.

* taken from the Sustainable Communities Strategy

Supporting vulnerable people:

Vulnerable people need to be offered support to ensure that they are able to choose and access housing which meets their needs. There is a need to improve advocacy for those presenting as homeless, especially young people, people with mental health issues, and those with physical disabilities. Older people's housing needs also need to be considered.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AT:

www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/belonging/members-directory

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

We aspire to a healthy, just society, living within environmental limits by achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly.

LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

Our climate is changing, of that there is no doubt. The scientific evidence suggests that we need to dramatically cut greenhouse gas emissions, and cut them soon. There's a lot we can do, both on an individual basis and at local level, as well as nationally and globally, to halt man-made climate change. From growing our own food instead of buying pre-packed food from across the world, to driving less and walking more, insulating our homes or switching lights off when not needed. Lots of small things can make a difference.

Over 100 CVSF members work to improve and enhance the environment.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Education and awareness

Focus on education and promoting understanding and learning about environmental issues and environmental social justice.

The need to live within environmental limits and the issue of climate change needs to be taught in schools and understood by school children.

Waste

The issues of sustainability need to be addressed.

Business waste, in particular the issue of junk mail, and supermarket waste, are issues which need to be addressed.

Green spaces and the natural environment

There needs to be a greater integration of wildlife and green space into the urban environment.



NORTH PORTSLADE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Allotments are a good way of producing healthy, delicious fruit and vegetables at a low cost and you can produce them organically if you want to. Working on the allotment is a great way to relax and unwind from the stresses of modern life and is a brilliant form of exercise. We all benefit from working on the plot, growing and eating seasonal produce, and spending time outdoors in good company with young and old.



CVSF

CVSF moved to Ethical Property's new sustainable building, Brighton Junction, during 2010. We are also proud to have become a 10:10 champion.

Some facts *

We need to reduce CO2 emissions by up to 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2050 to prevent man-made climate change.

CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas and petrol are the biggest contributory factor (85%).

About 1.3 million tones of CO2 are emitted by Brighton and Hove annually.

About 29% of household waste in the city is currently recycled or composted.

Brighton and Hove has the highest proportion of 'green tariff' renewable electricity purchasers in the UK (11%), and the highest proportion of vegetarians.

* taken from the Sustainable Communities Strategy



BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Brighton and Hove is bidding to become a biosphere reserve. As our city grows, it is important that we try and reconnect it with its rural hinterland. We need better access to our amazing local countryside and to understand more about our environment and ecosystems, so we can respect and enjoy them. At the same time, we want to bring the countryside into the city, giving space to wildlife to enrich our lives.

Our aim is to develop friendly, affordable and environmentally-friendly bus services to give those without cars the freedom to get around easily and encourage those with cars to use public transport instead, to help reduce global warming. Our buses run on 100% locally-sourced used cooking oil to minimise their impact on the environment. Through its membership club, we encourage passengers to get involved in developing the services to ensure they serve their community as best they possibly can.



THE BIG LEMON

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Transport in Brighton and Hove is a significant issue and it is a challenge to balance the varying needs of a highly mobile population, sharing limited road space, with the need to welcome visitors and to reduce pollution and carbon emissions and preserve the city's green spaces and architectural heritage. However, Brighton and Hove is striving to be a sustainable transport city, and is a city where people have taken cycling (and even skateboarding) to their hearts as a main means of transport, where car clubs are successful and where the number of people using buses is on the up. The buses even run on biofuel!

A number of CVSF members are solely focused on the promotion of sustainable transport.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Improving mental and physical health and promoting walking and cycling

Action should be taken to reduce the negative impacts of traffic and air pollution on residents' physical and mental health. Promoting walking and cycling options in the city will also help to increase health and well-being. Cycling should be promoted through increases in cycle training schemes, cycle-friendly roads, cycle parking, security for cyclists, and cycle hire facilities. A 'Living Streets' approach to promoting walking should also be taken and the voice of the pedestrian in the city listened to. Speeds in the city could also be reduced and there should be strict targets to reduce road collisions.

Transport planning and infrastructure

A co-ordinated approach is required to achieve better planning and integration of transport systems in Brighton and Hove. Transport choices for non-car drivers and owners should be maximised, and where appropriate the concept of 'shared space' implemented in many different areas of the city. A Park and Ride scheme should also be developed using extra infrastructure where possible. Park and Ride schemes need to take into account different uses such as visitor use at the weekend and resident use on weekdays.

Placing a greater emphasis on public transport

Brighton and Hove already has a well used and high quality bus service, however; the city would benefit from having reduced journey times, more bus routes to outlying areas of the city, and more bus routes that go between neighbourhoods and link facilities directly without going through the city centre. Access to buses should be improved for older people, and the comfort of bus shelters and availability of public toilets also improved to encourage greater use of public transport.

Ensuring the safety of children on the city's roads

Children's needs should be prioritised in transport planning and the impact of the school run on traffic needs to be tackled. Solutions to the school run could include more local schools so that children can walk to school, school buses for primary school children, keeping journeys to school as short as possible, and encouraging more flexible approaches to drop off and collection times by both employers and schools.

Some local facts*

Almost 20% of Brighton and Hove's carbon emissions come from road transport. Reducing transport is key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

There are 23km of cycle routes in the city.

Over 40 million passenger journeys are made within the city on local buses every year.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

An integrated and accessible transport system, that enables people to travel around and access services as safely and freely as possible while minimising damage to the environment and contributing to a safer, cleaner, quieter and healthier city.



LEWES ROAD FOR CLEAN AIR AND BIKE TRAIN

Lewes Road for Clean Air supports sustainable transport for the city with a range of practical initiatives. Our 'Bike Train' project runs daily group cycle rides (during term-time) from The Level to university sites at Falmer, creating a safety-in-numbers environment to enable more people to cycle this route.

We also organised a weekend park-and-ride scheme on Car Free Day, enabling visitors to the city to utilise empty university car parks at Moulsecoomb and jump on a Big Lemon bus to the city centre.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Unsure Young People often have to deal with prejudice and discrimination as well as learning about who they are and the world around them. Allsorts provides a range of services for young people; individual one to one support, a helpline, group work, health and wellbeing and sexual health information. This means lots of LGBT and unsure young people every year can access free, expert information and advice so they feel safe and supported as they grow up.



PROVIDING QUALITY ADVICE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Advice and information services are an enormous and vital part of the community and voluntary sector. In CVSF membership alone there are almost 40 organisations, ranging from small local centres and drop-ins through to local branches of large national advice organisations. They provide specialist, independent information or advice to help local people.

This year has seen their services more and more in demand as residents struggle to manage in difficult financial circumstances; the services themselves face uncertain times.

During the year, CVSF members have identified these priorities:

Community and voluntary sector service provision

The diversity of services across the sector must be maintained with specialist advice and information services readily available. Advice services need to be user-led and not funder-led and responsive to residents' needs. Volunteers offer extra added value to advice services, but volunteers are not free, not necessarily appropriate in all situations, and should be properly trained and supported to develop the skills and knowledge that they need.

Building relationships and partnerships

Relationships between different services should be built so that the variety of residents' needs can be met and good referral practices embedded into service provision. Advice services, and the community and voluntary sector in general, need to maintain their independence whilst also maintaining good working relationships with partners from other sectors.

Monitoring of advice and information services

The outcomes of services should be monitored in a clear and consistent way and there need to be agreed ways of monitoring and proving the impact of advice services which do not take efforts away from delivering frontline services. Agreed standards for advice services should be written into commissioning processes and contracts.

Some local facts *

Independent legal advice providers (including BHT, CAB and MACS) gave one to one advice to over 17,000 residents in 2008/09.

Almost 50% of the city's library users use them to find help and information. Libraries receive over 1.7 million in person visits and over two million online visits a year from residents.

* taken from the Sustainable Communities Strategy

ALLSORTS

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AIM:

A place where residents can readily access free advice and information that they can rely on in order to help them to deal with difficult situations, avoid dependency on services and achieve their aspirations.



MACS

Money Advice and Community Support (MACS) provides advice, information and assistance in debt and welfare benefits. We have a team of skilled advisers who have a wealth of knowledge and expertise in these areas of law. There are other voluntary sector organisations in the city which, like us provide free high quality and reliable advice and information. Timely advice helps people solve problems which may seem insurmountable, ideally leaving them more able to deal with future problems. It also helps avoid costly and disruptive actions such as repossession or court action for non payment of debts. We hope that we also contribute to helping people feel more included and able to look ahead and achieve their aspirations.

CVSF

3 Spoke magazines; 12 issues of Dialogue, CVSF's monthly news bulletin, a new and improved website.

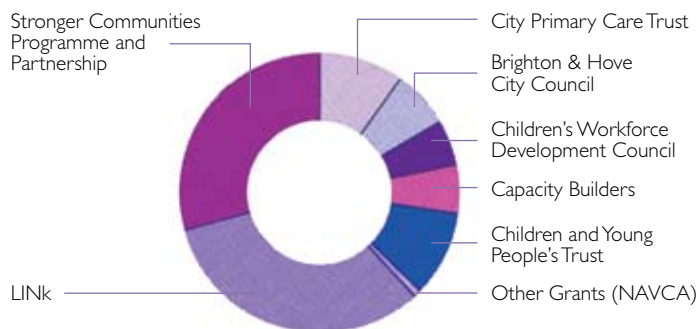




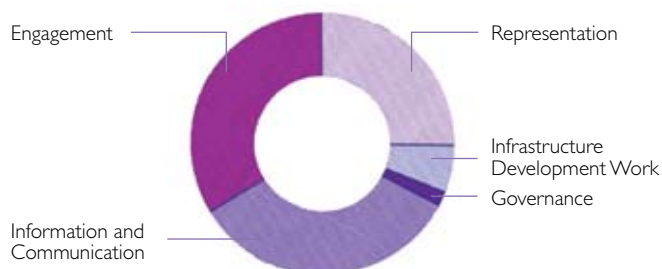
Financial Report 2009/10

	2009/10	2008/9
Total incoming resources	£424,320	£406,797
Total resources expended	£397,503	£354,059
Net incoming resources	£26,817	£52,738
Fund balances 1 Apr 09	£131,674	
Fund balances 1 Apr 10	£158,491	

Total Income and Resources 2009/10



Total Resources Expended 2009/10



CVSF Staff

Caroline Elliot *
Charlotte Irtelli
Clair Farenden
Claire Stevens
Dan Salisbury
Duncan Blinkhorn
Edda Ivan-Smith *
Emily O'Brien
Emma Daniel
Janice Hoiles *
Jim Simpson *
Katy McGrory
Mary Saunders *
Sally Polanski
Val Young

* have moved on to pastures new.

Freelance Consultants

Clare Osbond
Keith Beadle

Trustees

Debbie Charman, Carers Centre
Emma Gaskin, Appointee
Geraldine Des Moulins, Federation of Disabled People
Karen Cass, Radio Reverb
Lisa Dando, Brighton Women's Centre
Michael Creedy, Brighton Peace and Environment Centre (BPEC)
Naima Nouidjem, Mosaic
Neil Holmes, Care Co-ops
Rik Child, Furniture Now!
Simon Lewis, CityCoast Trust
Tim Smith, Grace Eyre Foundation
Vivienne Barton, Appointee

Elected Representatives

Barry Hulyer
Ben Glazebrook
Caroline Ridley
Caroline Price
Caroline Gorton
Chris Todd
Chris Lau
Christina Summers
Clair Barnard
Darren Snow
David Standing
David Higgins
Doris Ndebele
Francis Tonks
Gail Gray
Geraldine Des Moulins
Ian Cunningham
Iseult Hull-Flower
Jackie Cuff
Jackie Grigg
Janine Enefer
Jannet Cook
Jenny Moore
Jess Wood
Joanna Martindale
Kim Crewe
Libby Parkhurst
Lindsay Jacobs
Lisa Dando
Lorette Mackie
Lorraine Snow
Lyn Strong
Marion Taylor
Marion Silsby
Mark Strong
Michael Creedy
Michelle Pooley
Michelle Jani
Mike Holdgate
Neil Holmes
Nicole Monney
Nora Mzaoui
Pam Nicholls
Paul Bramwell
Paul Streetly
Rachel Brett
Rachel Travers
Robert Brown
Ros Cook
Sally Holder
Sarah Danily
Sarah Pickard
Simon Lewis
Steve Lawless
Sue Barnes
Sue Stepney
Tamsin Knight
Terri Fletcher
Veronique Rewane-Dakolo
Vic Borrill
William Gandey

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REPRESENTING OVER 500 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

60+ Action Group **A** Action for Beveandean Community • Active Student • Actually C.I.C. • Adult Cookery Group • Advance Advocacy C.I.C. • Adventure Unlimited • Age Concern Brighton Hove Portslade • ALALA (All for Love and Love for All) • Al-Anon Family Groups • Aldrington Place/Loriners Court • Aldrington Team Ministry • All Different All Equal • All Saints and Ascension Youth • Allsorts Youth Project • Alternatives Pregnancy Counselling Centre • Alzheimer's Society, Brighton & Hove Branch • Amaze • Anchor Housing Trust (National) • Anchor Staying Put • Another London Road • Ardingly Court & Kebbell Lodge Residents Association • As You Are Counselling • ASpire (Impetus) • Assert • Association of Harbour Communities • Audio Active **B** B&H & District Football League • B&H & District Leaseholders Association • B&H & District Samaritans • B&H & District Schools Rugby Association • B&H Archaeological Society • B&H Arts Council • B&H Black History • B&H Black Women's Group • B&H Child Contact Centre • B&H Chinese Society • B&H Citizens Advice Bureau • B&H City Mission • B&H Cruise Bereavement Care • B&H Cycling Group • B&H Daily Living Centre • B&H Food Partnership • B&H Friends of the Earth • B&H Inclusion Project (BHIP) • B&H Independent Mediation Service • B&H Interfaith Contact Group • B&H Jewish Representative Council • B&H LGBT Switchboard • B&H Multiple Sclerosis Society • B&H Muslim Forum • B&H Muslim Women's Group • B&H Older People's Council • B&H Organic Gardening Group • B&H Parents & Childrens Group • B&H Petanque Club • B&H Progressive Synagogue • B&H Shopmobility • B&H Speak Out • B&H Unemployed Workers Centre • B&H Volunteers • B&H World Development Movement • Bahai Community of Brighton and Hove • Bandbazi • BD4U - Eastern Promise • BECCA 50+ Club • Benfield Wildlife and Conservation Group • Beveandean Childrens Centre (BeCCA) • Beveandean Local Action Team • BHT - Advice Centre • BHT - Mental Health Homeless Team • BHT - Portland Road Project • BHT - Route One Project • BHT - Sackville Gardens Project • Big Breakthrough • Bike for Life • Bike It Project • Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership • Black & Minority Ethnic Young People's Project • Bluebird Society for the Disabled • Bodhi Garden • Boomerang Kids • Bottletop • Boys Brigade - 9th Brighton Group • Bricycles • Bridge Community Education Centre • Bright Exchange • Brighthelm Church and Community Centre • Brighton & W Sussex Assn for Colitis and Crohn's Disease • Brighton Breastfeed Drop-in • Brighton Buddhist Centre • Brighton Capoeira Angola • Brighton Carnival Association • Brighton Conservation Volunteers • Brighton Cougars Basketball Club • Brighton Dolphin Swimming Club • Brighton Dome and Festival Limited • Brighton Housing Trust (BHT) • Brighton LIONS Club • Brighton Mitre Cycling Club • Brighton Oasis Project • Brighton Orpheus Choir • Brighton Peace & Environment Centre • Brighton Permaculture Trust • Brighton Quakers • Brighton Rock Housing Co-op • Brighton Society • Brighton Songwriters • Brighton Soup Run • Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project • Brighton Urban Wildlife Group • Brighton Women's Centre • Brighton YMCA • Brighton Youth Centre • Brilliant Futures Limited / Brilliant Futures Community Project Limited • Bristol Estate Community Association • British Computer Society • British Red Cross • Brunswick & Regency Neighbourhood Action Group • Brunswick Westward U3A • BTCV Southern Central Area Office • Bus Users UK - Central Sussex Group • Business Community Partnership **C** C Level • Cabrini Childrens Society • Campaign to Protect Rural England • CAPS - Community Association of Portslade (South) • Care Co-operatives • Care for the Carers • Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove • Carousel • Carr Gomm • CCHF All About Kids • CHIBAH - Co-operative Housing in Brighton & Hove • Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work • Childrens Global Education Network • Christian Action Network • Churches Together in Brighton & Hove • City Gate Centre • City Synergy • CityCoast Trust • Clare Project • Clifton, Montpellier, Powis Community Alliance LAT • Clock Tower Sanctuary (Brighton) • Clowd 9 • communArty • Communities Solutions • Community Base • Community Buildings Network • Community Development Organisation-Sussex (formerly Sussex African Communities Project) • Community Support Drop-in • Community Transport (Brighton, Hove & Area) Ltd • Concordia • Consumer Consultancy • Contact the Elderly (1st Brighton Group) • Cookado • Cornerstone Community Centre • Cragers Unemployed Climbers Group • Creating Futures Ltd • Creative Future • Crew Club • CRI - Rough Sleepers Team • Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) • Crossroads (East Sussex and B&H) • CSV • CSV Agent for Change • Cultures Club **D** Daybreak Family Group Conferences • Diabetes Brighton Voluntary & Support Group • Dialogue (Sussex Central YMCA Therapeutic Services) • Djambass Music • Dolphin House Childrens Clinic • Dorset Gardens Methodist Church • Drama For Fun • Duke of Edinburgh's Award • Dupont Art Club • Dv8 Training Brighton **E** Early Childhood Project • Earshot • East Brighton Trust CIC • East Brunswick Residents Association • East Sussex Association of Blind & Partially Sighted People • East Sussex Credit Union • Easthill Park Group • Ecosys Environmental Management & Education • ENMAUS B&H Community • Engage Employment Solutions Ltd (Engage Partnership) • Epilepsy Action, Brighton and Hove Branch • Essex Place Tenants Association • Ethnic Minorities Representatives Council • Experience in Mind • Extratime After School Clubs **F** Fabrica Art Gallery • Family Link • Federation of Disabled People • Figrant Arts C.I.C. • Firefly Workshops CIC • First Base Day Centre • Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) • Food Matters • Fork and Dig it • Friends Centre • Friends First • Friends Meeting House • Friends of Bedford Square • Friends of Beveandean Down • Friends of Blaker's Park • Friends of Brighton & Hove Hospitals • Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods • Friends of Hove Stroke Club • Friends of Queens Park • Friends of St Andrew's Church • Friends of Stanmer Park • Friends of William Clarke Park • Friends, Families and Travellers • Fun in Action for Children • Furniture Now! **G** G.T. Club • GAYSWAG - Gay Sussex Walking Group • GEMS (Gay Elderly Men's Soc) • Girlguiding - Brighton West Division • Gladrags Community Costume Resource • Glass Bridges • Good Timers • Grace Eyre • Grassroots Training C.I.C. • Greenfingers Organic Garden • Grey Matters Productions • Guinea Group • Gujarati Cultural Society **H** Hangleton & Knoll Festival • Hangleton & Knoll Parish • Hangleton & Knoll Project • Hangleton Community Association • Hangleton Get Together Club • Hangleton Harbinger • Hanover Community Association • Hapjittos Preschool • Harmony in the Community • Headway Hurstwood Park • Helping Hands • Hertford Hunnies Allotment Group • Hindu Womens Group • Holland Road Baptist Church • Hollingbury Table Tennis Club • Hollingdean Community Centre • Hollingdean Development Trust • Hollingdean Neighbourhood Network • Hollingdean News • Hollingdean Tenants Association • Holy Nativity Senior Citizens Club • Honeycroft • Hove & Adur Sea Cadets • Hove Civic Society • Hove Methodist Church • Hove Naturally • HydeMartlett Housing Association **I** Impact Initiatives • Impetus • Impetus - Neighbourhood Care Scheme B&H • Inner City Wildlife Concern B&H area • Interact • Ishigaki Ju-Jitsu • IT Skills 4 Rural Kenya **J** Jesus Fellowship Church (Brighton) • JustWrite **K** Kala Phool • Kaleidoscope • Kalinka - Russian Parent & Toddler Group • Kalinka Russian Social Club • Keep Sussex Skating Association • Kemp Town Crypt Community Centre & Cafe • Kemp Town in Bloom • KiddieWinks • Knoll Advice Centre • Knoll Community Association • Knoll FC • Knowles Tooth Childrens Centre • Krazy Kat Theatre Company **L** Ladybirds • Lapidus (Brighton branch) • Lewes Road for Clean Air • Lewes Road United Reformed Church • Life Centre • Little Ducklings Pre-school • London Road LAT • LUPUS UK/Sussex Area **M** Macular Disease Society • Madhatters and Lunch Club • Magpie Environmental Trust • Magpie Recycling Co-operative Ltd • Mankind • Martlets Hospice • Meadowview Community Centre • Meadowview Pre-School • Meals on Wheels • Mediterranean Resources Network • Men Get Eating Disorders Too • Mencap (B&H) • Mentoring and Befriending Foundation • Metamorphosis Art Group • Migrant Helpline SE region (covering Brighton & Hove) • Millwood Community Centre • Mind in Brighton & Hove • Mixed Blessings Theatre Group • Money Advice and Community Support Service • MOSAIC Black, Asian & Mixed Parentage Family Group • Motorvation (Creating Futures) • Moulsecomb Community Forum and Newsletter • Moulsecomb Forest Garden & Wildlife Project • Moulsecomb Neighbourhood Trust • Moulsecomb Parish • Moulsecomb Toy Library • Music for Kids **N** Nacro • National Osteoporosis Society, B&H Group • Nautical Training Corps, East Sussex Area • New Larchwood Community Cafe • New Life Community Church • North Hangleton Residents Association • North Laine Community Association • North Portslade Community Allotment Group • North Portslade Community Newspaper • Novas Scarman Group **O** Off the Fence Trust • Old Boat Corner Community Association • One Parent Families Gingerbread - SE • Oromo Community in Brighton & Hove • Outlook Foundation Charity **P** Pakistani Community Group • Parkinson's UK • Patcham and Hollingbury Help Group • Patcham Community Association • Patcham Community Centre • Patched CRI • Pathways to Health • Pathways to Independence • Patientfriends • Peace Messenger • Peer2Peer • Pensioners' Forum (Impetus) • Phoenix Community Association • Phoenix Community Centre • Poets Corner Community Society • Poets Corner Multicultural Group • Portage, Early Support and Befriending Service (B&H) • Portland Road & Clarendon Forum • Portslade Allotments and Horticulture Society • Portslade Arts & Crafts Group • Portslade Community Forum • Portslade Community Project/Forum • Portslade District Rainbows • Portslade Local Action Team • Portslade Youth Forum • Pre-school Learning Alliance (Brighton & Hove) • Preston Park Day Centre • Pride in Brighton & Hove • Prince's Trust • Project V - University of Sussex • Puffin Pre-School Nursery **Q** QueenSpark Books **R** RadioReverb Ltd • REACH - Sussex • Red Star Hollingdean • Red Zebra • Regency Square Area Society • Relate • Remap (Brighton & Hove District) • Resource Centre • Rethink • RFET Limited Editions • Rhythmic • Right Here B&H • RISE (Refuge, Information, Support and Education) • Robert Lodge Pensioners Group • Robert Lodge Project • Rockinghorse • Royal National Institute for Deaf People - Care Services • RSPCA Sussex, Brighton & East Grinstead Branch • RSVP - Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme • RU-OK! Young Persons' Substance Misuse Service • Rwandan Youth Information Community Organisation **S** Safe + Sorted Youth Advice Centre (Sussex Central YMCA) • Safe Space (Sussex Central YMCA) • Safety Net • Salvation Army • Salvation Army - Beveandean • Same Sky • SCIP • Scope • Sharon Collins Resource Centre • Scouts - Brighton 15th Group (Whitehawk, Bristol Est & Manor Farm) • Scouts - Brighton 54th Group (Beveandean) • Scouts - Brighton 6th Group (Lewes Road) • Self Managed Learning College • Serendipity Enterprising Solutions CIC • Seven Ways • Shaw Trust • Sierra Leone Brighton Association • Silver Sounds • Smile Support and Care • Somerset Day Centre • Sons of Sudan Club • South Coast Money Line • South East Forum for Sustainability • South East Planning Aid • South Portslade Community Centre • Southdown Housing Association • Southern Aurora Drum and Bugle Corps • Southern Cross Preschool • Southern Housing Group • SPARKS (Stoneham PARK Society) • Speakability - Action for Dysphasic Adults • Special Branch Tree Nursery • Spectral Arts • Spectrum • Spiders Web IT • SPIN (Single Parent Information Network) • Spiral • Springboard Project • Spurgeons (Sussex) • St George's Church • St Georges Hall Social Club • St George's Neighbourhood Nursery • St James' Area Action Group • St James' Area LAT • St James' House Residents Association • St John Ambulance - Homeless Service • St John's Older People's Centre and Cafe (Impact Initiatives) • St Lukes Advice Service • St Mary Magdalen Community Centre • St Nicholas Church • St Nicholas Preschool • St Patrick's Hostel (Lorica) • St Philip's Community Social Club • St Richard's Church and Community Centre • St Richards Evergreens • St Richard's Lunch Club • Step On Project (Creating Futures) • Stepping Stones Pre-school (Portslade) • Stopover Housing and Support for Young Women - Impact Initiatives • Stopover Outreach - Impact Initiatives • Street Caring Services • Street Outreach Service • Streetfunk • Strike a Light Community Arts and Heritage • Studioscape Singing and Performance • Sudanese & Arabic Speaking Elderly Association • Sudanese Community in Sussex • Sudanese Women and Children • Survivors Network (Sussex) • Sussex Aphasia Self Help (SASH) • Sussex Arts Marketing • Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus • Sussex Autistic Society • Sussex Bangladeshi Association • Sussex Beacon • Sussex Central YMCA • Sussex Central YMCA - Charity Shops • Sussex Central YMCA - Housing Services • Sussex Central YMCA - Residential Housing • Sussex Central YMCA - YAC Housing • Sussex Clubs for Young People • Sussex County Playing Fields Association • Sussex Deaf Association • Sussex Interpreting Service • Sussex ME/CFS Society • Sussex Multiple Sclerosis Treatment Centre • Sussex Muslim Society • Sussex Pet Rescue • Sussex Search and Rescue • Sussex Skills for Life Development Centre • Sussex Tikvah • Sussex Traveller Action Group • Sussex University LGBT • Sussex University RAG (Raising and Giving) • Sussex Wildlife Trust • Sweet Peas • Sylvan Hall Residents Association **T** Talkshop • Tarnerland Children and Young Peoples Project • The Basement Arts Production, South East • The Big Lemon CIC • The Circle of Experienced Elders • The Enable Me Project • The Family Workshop • The Foyer • The Gender Trust • The GOAL Group • The Life Project CIC • The Light Centre • The Link Up Project • The Manor • The Real Thing • The Rottingdean Preservation Society • The Round Hill Society • The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC) • The Whistler • Threshold Womens Counselling - BHT • Together • Transition Brighton & Hove • Triangle Community Group • Trickswop Workshop • Tuesday Lunch Club • Two Piers Housing Co-operative Ltd **U** UTime • United Nations Association Brighton, Hove & District • Urban Forum **V** Vallance Community Centre • Valley Social Centre • Victim Support Brighton • Viva Art • Vocal Explosion • Volunteer Centre Brighton & Hove **W** WE3 Presents • West Hill Community Association • West Hove Community Baptist Church • Whitehawk After School Project (WASP) - Impact Initiatives • Whitehawk and Manor Farm Outings Group • Whitehawk Central Tenants & Residents Association • Whitehawk Community Voice • Whitehawk Inn • Whoopsadaisy • Wild Art Organisation (formerly Play on the Wild Side) • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom • Woodingdean Community Centre • Woodingdean Youth Centre • Working 50 Plus • Working Together Project • World Sacred Music **Y** YAP (Brighton & Hove Youth Advocacy & Participation) • Young Parents' Project • Young People's Centre - Impact Initiatives • Youth Advice Centre (Sussex Central YMCA)

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