

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Sally Polanski, 01273 234023 / 07904 012555, or
sally@bhcommunityworks.org.uk

Five voluntary organisations lead the way towards sustainability in Brighton and Hove

Five high impact voluntary organisations in Brighton and Hove have shown they are ready and willing to make the necessary changes to deliver sustainable services to their users.

Brighton Women's Centre, Creative Future, The Food Partnership, Friends, Families & Travellers and MindOut have each been awarded a grant to implement organisational change, funded by the Cabinet's Office Local Sustainability Fund (LSF) and delivered by Big Lottery Fund. The resource will allow them to find time, support and critical challenge needed to make improvements in areas they have identified as development priorities.

Over 1,000 organisations applied to the scheme last year and completed an online assessment to demonstrate understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. 265 organisations have been funded across the country. The 5 successful organisations in Brighton and Hove were amongst 23 recipients in the South East and their grants total £334,534.

Using professional advice and volunteers from local businesses, the organisations will focus on demonstrating their impact, succession planning and income diversification. With support from Community Works, CEOs from the organisations will come together at regular intervals during the programme to action plan and share resources. Their trustee boards will exchange their knowledge and experiences of leading change. Learning will also be made available to the wider voluntary and community sector, to maximise the impact of the LSF programme locally.

Sally Polanski, CEO of Community Works, said:

“It is imperative that organisations plan for their long-term sustainability but many simply do not have the capacity to focus on their own development when resources are so tight. The five successful organisations are all providing vital services to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our society. It is fantastic that they have this opportunity to focus on their development and that we can share their learning to benefit other Community Works' members.”

For more information please call Sally Polanski on 01273 234023 / 07904 012555

NOTES

1. Community Works ensures that voluntary and community action has the greatest positive impact on people in Brighton and Hove. It provides support to over 450 charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises in Brighton and Hove, all of which are working to improve the lives of 10,000s of people across the city every day.
www.bhcommunityworks.org.uk
2. The city's community and voluntary sector (estimated to be made up of 2,300 community groups and voluntary organisations) contributes £127 million to the local economy every year. It is made up of an estimated 6,900 paid staff and 27,600 volunteers www.bhcommunityworks.org.uk/research/
3. Brighton Women's Centre has been supporting women with multiple complex needs in Brighton and Hove for over 40 years and across wider Sussex since 2014. It aims to empower women and promote independence in a safe, women-only space.
www.womenscentre.org.uk
4. Creative Future provide creative training, mentoring and the chance to publish or exhibit to talented people who lack opportunities due to mental health issues, disability, health or social circumstance www.creativefuture.org.uk
5. The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership is a hub for information, inspiration and connection around food. It delivers a range of community projects such as cookery courses, helping people start new community gardens, tips and advice on reducing food waste, advice on food poverty and support for food banks and nutrition/ healthy weight programmes for adults and families www.bhfood.org.uk
6. Friends, Families and Travellers Is a national charity based in Brighton working on behalf of all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma regardless of ethnicity, nationality, culture or background. The charity carries out casework to support Travellers and help them access into mainstream services and its aim is to end the discrimination and social exclusion experienced by the travelling communities www.gypsy-traveller.org/
7. MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health service is run by and for LGBTQ people with lived experience of mental health issues. It provides a range of services, including out of hours online support, advocacy, advice & information, peer support group work, peer mentoring, wellbeing workshops & courses and LGBTQ Affirmative Practice training www.mindout.org.uk