



Brighton and Hove Common Ambition manifesto recommendations

Common Ambition is a co-production project that lifts the voice of people with lived experience of homelessness and offers invaluable insight to improve the local homeless system. In order of priority, we have co-produced eight manifesto recommendations that are important to us. We welcome the opportunity to present and discuss these, and, moving forward, to continue to input into services and systems at all levels.

We want the majority party to hold the system and services to account, and demonstrate their accountability to every person living in Brighton and Hove regardless of housing status

1. On Accountability for the housing pathway

Brighton and Hove Common Ambition's work on the housing pathway in Brighton and Hove identified three parts of the homelessness journey in which people's health and life expectancy outcomes deteriorate significantly.

1. The time it takes to receive a decision on a homeless application and challenge that decision where necessary, particularly for those in priority need, but for all applicants. This would require collaboration with health services to ensure timely access to medical evidence.
2. Access to safe and healthy emergency accommodation and the time spent here (a separate point on quality of accommodation and support follows below).
3. Lack of service provision for people who survive the housing pathway to support their recovery and ensure they continue their journey to healthy independence.

Co-producing a person-centred improvement and monitoring framework for these parts of the pathway, would improve health outcomes of our most vulnerable population and contribute toward ending homelessness in our city. Reducing time and improving access in these parts of the housing pathway will improve health outcomes, prevent long term health and disability issues and reduce time spent service-dependent.

2. Transparent Communications

In order to support accountability and build trust, clear and easy-to-access guidance should be provided on the following:

- An individual's housing rights and the council's duties
- The process of challenging decisions and ensuring rights are upheld
- A detailed view of how the housing pathway works in Brighton and Hove from the Council's perspective
- What services are available across the city at different stages of the homelessness journey

3. Mental Health

- Invest in and improve mental health support across the city; this includes immediate and urgent need and longer-term support
- Ensure those with mental health needs are able to have a Community Psychiatric Nurse within good time; the current waiting list is too long
- Have clearly signposted mental health services



- Take a holistic approach to mental health provision
- Provide trauma-informed training for council staff to avoid re-traumatisation and better support people when accessing services

4. Housing

- Make sure properties are fit for human habitation and suitable for people's needs
- Move toward the council owning emergency and temporary accommodation and to adhere to a minimum standard of accommodation
- Offer support to everyone in the city throughout their housing journey. This includes access to specialised support when housed in long-term accommodation to ensure people do not experience homelessness again

5. Co-production

Ensure the voice of those with lived experience of a particular social issue, marginalised group or health condition be at the heart of all service delivery and systems change strategies including at council level. This could include consulting, designing, delivering and evaluating services.

6. Systems & data

To make the system easier to navigate, we ask for it to be more joined up and for better communication within the council and across services in the city, and encourage having one data system in the council. This would also prevent re-traumatisation from having to repeat personal stories, as well as helping with long wait times, miscommunication and people not receiving the care they need.

7. Transport

Expand the bus pass scheme to people on benefits or low income, to enable people to access the care and support they need.

8. GPs & health

Ensure people with no fixed address are able to register with a GP according to the law and for people to know their rights.