

ourfuturecity

— BRIGHTON & HOVE —



Releasing young people's creative potential to transform our City

SYNOPSIS

In Brighton & Hove, children, young people and professionals from health, social services, local businesses, the creative industries, education and culture, have come together to find ways to transform our city in the next 10 years. This year, we're beginning a three-year programme (and intending to raise £1.7 million) to begin to make this a reality.

We know a lot of what has gone before isn't working. We only need to look at The 2015 Report by the Warwick Commission on the Future of Cultural Value, to see that: *"There are barriers and inequalities in Britain today that prevent equal access for everyone to a rich cultural education and the opportunity to live a creative life ... This is bad for business and bad for society."*

We're developing a way of working that will address inequality and lack of opportunity in a systematic way. It will happen within cultural education, but most importantly also beyond it. Our Future City* is a 10-year strategy, developed through an intensive 10-month process of consultation and pilot programmes, and now at the start of a three-year programme of delivery.

We have five clear goals, to:

- **grow creativity** – supporting children and young people to develop high-order creativity, thinking and behavioural skills
- **improve well being** – realising the potential of culture to help them build resilience and improve their wellbeing
- **develop digital skillfulness** – encouraging competencies, behaviours and practices to enhance their lives
- **enable routes into employment** – growing a world-class creative learning environment with clear learning and employment pathways
- **sustain collective action and impact** – establishing a new civic alliance across professional fields and sectors

But this is no ordinary cultural programme or partnership. It moves us beyond traditional ideas of the place of culture, creativity and education, because it is firmly cross-sector and cross-agenda.

We want to do things differently, by working together towards ambitious goals that demand collaboration. The first signs from our pilot phase are that something interesting is emerging that has the potential to deliver the transformation we know is needed. So Our Future City will find solutions over time to a range of complex challenges, learning as we're doing, and sharing our knowledge locally, regionally and nationally.

* Our Future City is co-ordinated by a group of cultural and education organisations, but is not led by any one body. The lead partners are: Brighton & Hove Music & Arts, Brighton Dome & Festival, Brighton & Hove Music Trust, Royal Pavilion & Museums, and University of Brighton. The programme is supported with investment from Artswork, the South East Bridge, and through the investment of time from a wide range of people and organisations in the City.

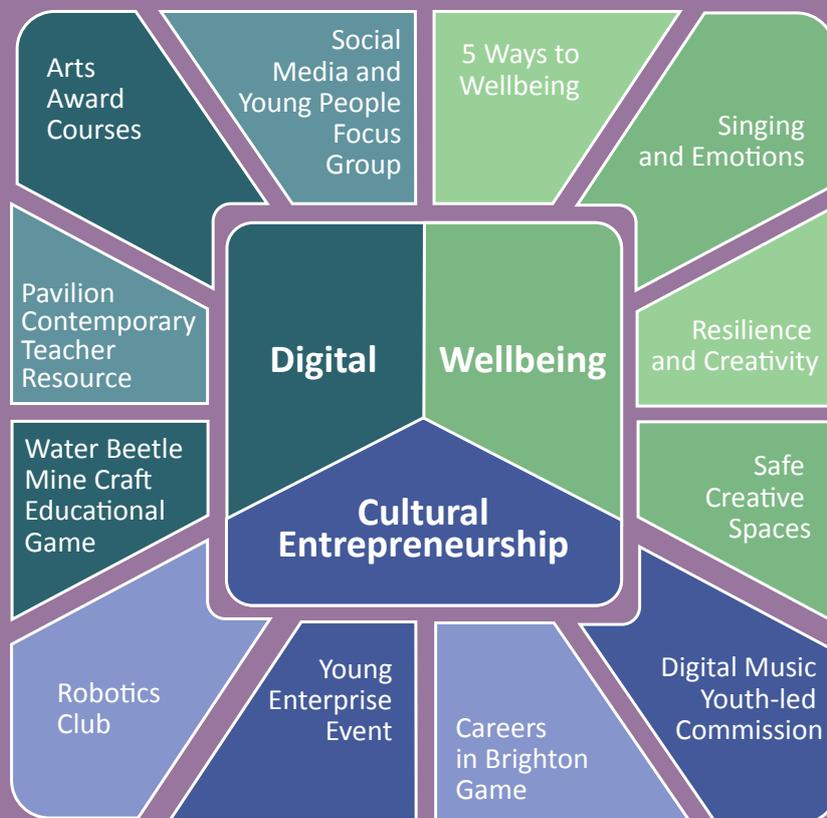
PHASE 1: 2015

What can we do **TOGETHER** that will have a transformative **IMPACT** on the future of the City's **CHILDREN** and young people?

10-MONTH PROGRAMME OF CONVERSATIONS:

- ★ 990 people involved (594 children and young people)
- ★ 1 online survey of young people in schools, youth clubs, arts organisations, health settings
- ★ 4 meetings of senior stakeholders
- ★ 3 development days
- ★ 9 structured thematic conversations
- ★ 5 focus groups with young people
- ★ 56 one-to-one meetings

12 Pilot programmes to TEST our THINKING and WORKING practices:



LEADING TO:

A strategy and plan to dismantle barriers and open up routes to creative lives and futures.

FIVE 10-YEAR GOALS:

SUSTAIN COLLECTIVE ACTION AND IMPACT

Establishing a new civic alliance across professional fields and sectors.

ENABLE ROUTES INTO EMPLOYMENT

Growing a world-class creative learning environment with clear learning and employment pathways.

GROW CREATIVITY

Supporting children and young people to develop high-order creativity, thinking and behavioural skills.

IMPROVE WELL BEING

Realising the potential of culture to help build resilience and improve wellbeing.

DEVELOP DIGITAL SKILLFULNESS

Encouraging competencies, behaviours and practices to enhance lives.

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PHASE 2: 2016-19

THREE-YEAR PROGRAMMES ACROSS TWO STRANDS:

DESIGNED and shaped by **YOUNG PEOPLE**, working with individuals from health, social services, business, the creative industries, culture and education (particularly school leaders, around inclusion and standards).

Offered to all schools, plus targeted work to reach the most vulnerable.

Shaped in real-time through a continuous process of capturing, sharing, learning and adapting. Resulting in learning and practice that is real, meaningful, and leads to change.

Creative thinking skills and behaviours to support learning and employability.

Scalable ways to wellbeing through arts, culture, digital and heritage experiences.

EXPLORING...

- ★ creativity, creative thinking and behaviours
- ★ aspirations for adulthood and the world of work
- ★ the value of creativity in employment, entrepreneurship, the economy

BE CREATIVE - EXPLORING...

- ★ the five ways to wellbeing: connect, keep learning, be active, take notice, be creative and play
- ★ good mental health: happiness, resilience, self-esteem, supporting young people who self-harm, or experience attachment issues

BE DIGITAL- EXPLORING...

- ★ skills and behaviours for using, creating and understanding digital media
- ★ using digital for collaboration, access to arts and culture, expanded creative potential

INVOLVING...

1,500 young people aged 5-19 directly, many more indirectly including families and friends.

125 professionals working with children and young people - involved in CPD.

INVOLVING...

1,930 young people aged 5-19 directly, many more indirectly including families and friends.

140 professionals working with children and young people - involved in CPD.

AND INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ACROSS BOTH STRANDS, INCLUDING:

- ★ 750 young people aged 5-19 shaping and developing the programme
- ★ A network of advocates from across sectors to champion Goal 5, collective action and impact
- ★ Schools across the city (including 16 trained as Artsmark schools)
- ★ More than 250 professionals across all sectors actively involved through the network and in CPD

Background

The issue: unfulfilled potential and outdated thinking

The future of Brighton & Hove is inextricably linked to the creativity of its children and young people. They will drive change, create value with their creativity and find solutions to future challenges.

Yet too many are at risk of being left behind. 19.6 per cent live in poverty and unless something changes, they and their families, will continue to do so. Their talents and potential will be wasted.

We believe that at the heart of this problem lies outdated thinking and working around economic and social reform. We have failed to harness the power of culture and creativity to change lives and futures.

Many of us – the powerful stakeholders who can make an impact on young people’s lives through our work in health, social services, as employers, in the creative industries, in education and the cultural sector – have been working in silos.

We’ve been focusing on isolated programmes and outcomes that are at best not joined-up, and at worst piecemeal, short-term and self-serving. This has been echoed in the way we’ve involved young people in shaping the future.

The solution: ensuring culture and creativity drive economic and social reform

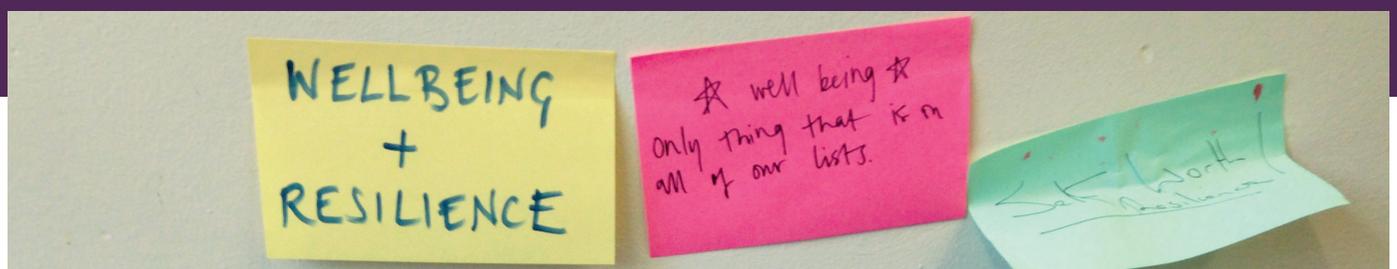
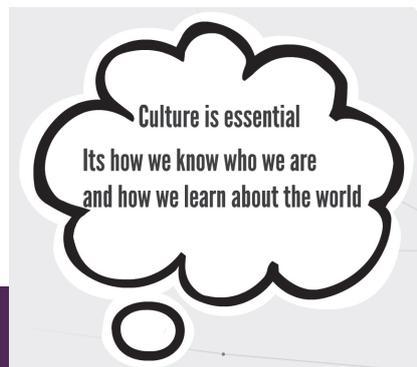
In Brighton & Hove, we’ve come together to challenge that status quo. We’ve begun a 10-year transformation programme that will harness children and young people’s potential and shape our City’s future.

We’ve already run a successful Phase 1 programme, speaking to 990 adults, children and young people over 10 months to ask them *‘What can we do together that will have a transformative impact on the future of the City’s children and young people?’*

We held one-to-one meetings, meetings of thematic groups, oversight board meetings, development days, focus groups with young people and related online surveys.

We then ran 12 pilot programmes to test our thinking and proposed working practices.

All of this has led us to create a strategy and plan for Brighton & Hove that will work to actively dismantle barriers and open up routes to creative lives and futures.



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Help us to make this happen



In 10 years time, the eight-year-olds who began their journeys through Our Future City will be at the start of their adult lives. They will be beginning to live the futures that they imagined, and that their parents could only dream about. And they will be our champions of change.

Until then, all of us working in the public, private and voluntary sectors – professionals in government, education, health, arts and culture, social services, local businesses, the creative industries – have a responsibility to help them succeed.

So at the start of this process of change, we have just three requests for you:

1. **Stay in touch** – sign up for our enewsletter so you can find out more about the programme and how you can make change happen in big or small ways
2. **Invest in learning** – take part in our CPD, development activities and networks for teachers and professionals, so you can better support young people to achieve their potential
3. **Advocate and support** – small actions, particularly conversations, can make a big difference. So do talk to colleagues and young people, friends and family about what's happening and why it's important

“Our cultural activity is a lifeline - as important as breathing”

**Will you champion children and young people's futures?
Sign up at www.ourfuturecity.org.uk**