

Election of reps 2026: statements by candidates

Candidates nominating themselves for election have provided answers to four questions to help inform your vote. Candidates are grouped by the theme or equality area they are standing for.

Community Works is committed to inclusion, respect and the well-being of all communities.

We recognise that members may hold a range of views and relationships, and we encourage voters to consider how candidates' experience, values and connections align with those principles when making their decision. Elected Community Works representatives are expected to uphold our shared commitment to inclusive, respectful engagement across all communities as set out in our [Code of Conduct](#).

Content:

Role: Children and Young People	3
Adam Muirhead, The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC).....	3
Joanna Martindale, The Hangleton and Knoll Project (HKP).....	4
Sally Polanski, Amaze	4
Role: Communities	5
Joanna Martindale, The Hangleton and Knoll Project (HKP).....	5
Karola Formella, Fareshare Sussex and Surrey.....	6
Kate Standing, Justlife.....	6
Kirsty Walker, The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)	7
Lisa Dando, Brighton Women's Centre (BWC)	8
Mark Strong, Bricycles	8
Role: Health and Care (adults)	9
Dr Anusree Biswas, Bridging Change.....	10
Barbara Harris, Diversity Resource International (DRI).....	10
Bela Emerson, Brighton & Hove Music for Connection (BHMC)	11

Caroline Ridley, Impact Initiatives.....	11
Emily Daniel, Together Co.....	12
Kirsty Walker, The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC).....	12
Natasha Barefield, Possability People.....	13
Nora Mzaoui, Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC.....	14
Rachael Swann, Grassroots Suicide Prevention.....	14
Tom Lambert, The Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove.....	15
Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP).....	15
Role: Environment	16
Cat Fletcher, Brighton Freegle and Les Gunbie, Hanover Action: towards a sustainable community	16
Karola Formella, Fareshare Sussex and Surrey.....	17
Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP).....	18
Role: Equity and Inclusion.....	18
Role: Black and Minoritised Ethnic / Black and Racialised Minority communities	19
Dr. Anusree Biswas and Nora Mzaoui,.....	19
Juliet Ssekitoleko & Shelley Hurley, Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership (BMECP).....	19
Dr. Manal Ahmed, We Are The Tree CIC.....	20
Role: Disabled People	21
Julie Rossiter, The Grace Eyre Foundation.....	21
Natasha Barefield, Possability People.....	21
Role: Religion and Belief.....	22
Tim Jones and Steve Horne, Brighton and Hove Faith in Action	22
Role: LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer+).....	23
Gary Pargeter, Lunch Positive and Peter Nesbitt, MindOut	23
Role: TNBI (Trans, non-binary and intersex).....	24
Kettle Malony and Robin Conkerton-Darby, The Clare Project.....	24
Role: Women and Girls.....	24
Lisa Dando, Brighton Women’s Centre (BWC)	24
Dr. Manal Ahmed, We Are The Tree CIC.....	25
Role: Older people	25
Bela Emerson, Brighton & Hove Music for Connection (BHMC)	25
Maxine Thomas, Impact Initiatives.....	26

Role: Children and Young People

3 full vacancies + 1 Trainee

Number of candidates: 3

The main purpose of this role is to be a key link between everyone in our sector and Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) through holding a seat on key strategic, citywide committees and groups where decisions involving children and young people are being made. Areas within this role include, but are not limited to: SEND, safeguarding, mental health, education and opportunities.

Candidate details	Why do you want to be an elected voluntary and community sector rep?	The Rep role involves attending meetings with council officers & councillors, NHS senior staff and other partners, to represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector. Please outline the experience you have of attending similar meetings to represent your community/group/organisation. For a Trainee role, we don't expect you to have this experience, you are still welcome to answer this question	Given that this role depends upon connection with the wider voluntary and community sector, how do you plan to use your existing networks to engage with other groups / organisations, to gather their concerns and to share information with them? If you don't have existing networks, how do you plan to build relationships within the wider sector?	What areas of expertise do you have that may be useful for the Rep role e.g. specific areas of work or understanding of specific communities?
<p>Adam Muirhead, The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>The sector is arguably more needed than ever. I want to play my part in ensuring the recognition of its strength and strategic necessity in decision-making spaces across the city.</p>	<p>I have now been an elected CVS Rep with the Community Works programme for 9 and a half years and was a 'Shadow'/Trainee Rep for a couple of years before that. In that time, I have sat on Council Committees, strategic partnerships and in a range of discussions representing the sector. My local representative work is complemented by other national experience representing youth workers, formerly as Chair of the Institute for Youth Work (IYW) in England, and around the globe as a Director of the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA).</p>	<p>I am very well networked locally, having worked in the youth sector here for 20 years. I currently convene the Brighton & Hove Youth Services Network and operate a related mailing-list with around 100 members. I make it my business to learn about policy and practice across a range of sectors related to children and young people; I have positive working links with colleagues in Education, Health and Criminal Justice sectors. My plan is to remain an accessible Rep who can be approached with concerns and ensure those views and experiences are heard and acted upon.</p>	<p>As mentioned, I have now built a solid understanding of policy, practice and commissioning across various sectors, though I am a specialist in youth work. My relationships across those spaces, alongside the diplomacy skills and inclusive approaches I practice have already led to joined-up thinking, progressive developments and positive change.</p>

<p>Joanna Martindale, The Hangleton and Knoll Project (HKP)</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>I am very committed to the rep role, highlighting the work of smaller community groups and volunteers as well as the whole range of service delivery. I believe that our sector is the answer to so many of the issues all our diverse communities experience. I want to be a strong voice working to improve its strength.</p>	<p>I have worked cross sectors but for 25 years, held a variety of CVS roles. I have Chaired the Disabled Children’s Partnership, led WestBH Integrated working, SVLA Health rep, Children’s, Peoples and budget scrutiny committees, the Health and Wellbeing Board and NICE committee. In every role I am congruent; always grassroots, inclusion, community development and solution focussed, enabling me to build trust and relationships across a wider variety of stakeholders, CVS CEOs, Senior managers in Health/Social care and politicians across the spectrum. Always informed by the wide range of community insight gathered through Community Works (CW) or through other community networks.</p>	<p>I have strong networks across the city both personal and professional. Community Works support links between reps and lists/events and provide opportunities to get feedback. HKP works in formal and informal partnerships with 80 organizations because we believe in collaboration as the best way to improve the lives of all our communities.</p> <p>As a rep I share agendas and target people for briefing on specific themes whether that’s SEND, Community Safety, Housing or health condition - this is to ensure that I am briefed to do the best job possible. Having a mandate is what brings credibility in the rep role and is what makes it powerful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a good understanding of how local government finance works which is essential to influence decisions • I work in a non-political, values-based way to influence resource allocation and advocate for CVS agility and impact • I have delivered work in co production, inclusion, youthwork and community development.
<p>Sally Polanski, Amaze</p> <p>Full Role, also happy to share the role</p>	<p>I want to improve services and support for local people, especially those who are vulnerable and whose voices aren’t heard. I want to ensure the VCS role in supporting communities is understood, valued and further expanded, by developing partnership working,</p>	<p>I have been a VCS rep for Community Works, East Sussex VCSE Alliance and the Sussex Voluntary Sector Leaders Alliance for 8+ years and have attended a wide range of partnership meetings including the Sussex Children and Young People’s Health Board, SEND Partnership Boards in B&H and ESx, and Early Intervention Partnership Board in both areas. Prior to working at Amaze, I was CEO of Community Works and developed VCS representation in B&H over 10 years. I have a good understanding of working across multi-agency partnerships,</p>	<p>I have strong relationships with VCS colleagues across CW’s membership having worked in the local VCS for 20 years. I connect directly with CEOs of organisations commissioned to provide services and staff/volunteers representing communities of interest/identity and working in neighbourhood-based organisations, and through partnerships/networks which Amaze is part of e.g. Brighton & Hove Youth Services Network, Thriving Communities Partnership, UOK, MH Leaders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Neurodevelopmental conditions and pathways, carers, youth work, social care, careers advice, education and employment, mental health and wellbeing, benefits advice. • Wider VCS, policy, strategy, service development, commissioning and fundraising, co-production, social value, good governance,

especially with education, health and care, where my expertise mostly lies.	nurturing effective relationships and advocating for the VCS as an equal partner.	Alliance, Carers Partnership and more. We are in Community Base alongside 30+ charities. I will use the Community Works lists, events and Reps Council to share information and gather input from the VCS, ensuring I represent effectively.	workforce development, quality assurance, safeguarding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local systems, local government, health structures and services, public sector reforms.
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Role: Communities

3 full vacancies + 1 Trainee

Number of candidates: 6

The main purpose of this role is to represent communities on the issues that affect them. Reps will sit on BHCC committees and other strategic partnership meetings in the city. Areas within this role include, but are not limited to: Neighbourhoods, economic inequalities, housing and homelessness, planning, crime & community safety, transport and the public realm.

Candidate details	Why do you want to be an elected voluntary and community sector rep?	The Rep role involves attending meetings with council officers & councillors, NHS senior staff and other partners, to represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector. Please outline the experience you have of attending similar meetings to represent your community/group/organisation. For a Trainee role, we don't expect you to have this experience, you are still welcome to answer this question.	Given that this role depends upon connection with the wider voluntary and community sector, how do you plan to use your existing networks to engage with other groups / organisations, to gather their concerns and to share information with them? If you don't have existing networks, how do you plan to build relationships within the wider sector?	What areas of expertise do you have that may be useful for the Rep role e.g. specific areas of work or understanding of specific communities?
Joanna Martindale, The Hangleton and Knoll	I am very committed to the rep role, highlighting the work of smaller community groups and volunteers as well as the whole range of service	I have worked cross sectors but for 25 years, held a variety of CVS roles. I have Chaired the Disabled Children's Partnership, led WestBH Integrated working, SVLA Health rep, Children's, Peoples and	I have strong networks across the city both personal and professional. Community Works support links between reps and lists/events and provide opportunities to get feedback. HKP works in formal and informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have a good understanding of how local government finance works which is essential to influence decisions.

<p>Project (HKP)</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>delivery. I believe that our sector is the answer to so many of the issues all our diverse communities experience. I want to be a strong voice working to improve its strength.</p>	<p>budget scrutiny committees, the Health and Wellbeing Board and NICE committee. In every role I am congruent; always grassroots, inclusion, community development and solution focussed, enabling me to build trust and relationships across a wider variety of stakeholders, CVS CEOs, Senior managers in Health/Social care and politicians across the spectrum. Always informed by the wide range of community insight gathered through Community Works or through other community networks.</p>	<p>partnerships with 80 organizations because we believe in collaboration as the best way to improve the lives of all our communities.</p> <p>As a rep I share agendas and target people for briefing on specific themes whether that's SEND, Community Safety, Housing or health condition -this is to ensure that I am briefed to do the best job possible. Having a mandate is what brings credibility in the rep role and is what makes it powerful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I work in a non-political, values-based way to influence resource allocation and advocate for CVS agility and impact. • I have delivered work in co production, inclusion, youthwork and community development.
<p>Karola Formella, Fareshare Sussex and Surrey</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in role share and trainee position</p>	<p>Over 20 years working with community organisations in Sussex and Surrey, I've seen how stretched teams are meeting immediate needs, leaving little space to connect or advocate. I believe stronger relationships, shared learning, and collective voice can help bridge gaps and build a more connected, responsive sector.</p>	<p>Through my voluntary roles, and particularly with FareShare Sussex and Surrey, I have attended a wide range of community, health, equality, and sustainability boards across the region. This has given me insight into different meeting structures, levels of engagement, and how effectively participants feel empowered to represent their communities. Working across multiple counties with diverse demographics has also highlighted how local context shapes decision-making, collaboration, and culture. These experiences have helped me understand both the strengths and inconsistencies in how groups operate and engage across different areas.</p>	<p>I spend much of my time visiting community groups, speaking with volunteers and staff, and listening to their day-to-day realities. Through my work with FareShare and my own volunteering, I stay closely connected to the challenges people face and the small, meaningful changes happening on the ground. Attending networks and conversations across Sussex and Surrey has shown me how much insight exists within the sector, yet how often it goes unheard. I'm continually learning from others and value creating spaces where people feel listened to, supported, and able to share solutions to common challenges.</p>	<p>Through my work and lived experience, I've developed a deep understanding of food insecurity, sustainability, and inclusion. Having worked with marginalised groups and as a migrant myself, I've seen how "otherness" can be felt and overlooked, shaping my commitment to creating spaces where everyone feels valued, heard, and able to participate</p>
<p>Kate Standing, Justlife</p>	<p>I have been a Rep (Housing & Homelessness) on the</p>	<p>Most recently I represented the HRSN on the project group developing BHCC's new Homelessness & Rough Sleeping</p>	<p>As previously mentioned, part of my role is facilitating the HRSN (for VCSE leaders). I also support the facilitation of</p>	<p>I have almost 30 years of experience working in local VCSE</p>

<p>Full Role, also interested in role share</p>	<p>Programme since 2022. This has complemented my role facilitating the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Network- HRSN (VCSE strategic leaders of organisations delivering homelessness services), plus other networks supporting the homelessness sector. Members of the HRSN Strategic Leaders Group support my nomination.</p>	<p>Strategy, facilitating opportunities for VCSE organisations and workers to contribute their knowledge and insights and shape the Strategy. I am currently supporting the delivery of this strategy while now also involved in a similar capacity as a Supported Housing Strategy is being developed. I also attend numerous other interagency meetings in my role of Networks & Partnership Manager representing either Justlife of the networks and forums I support – including the recent Changing Futures Programme and meetings with council officers, councillors and other partners.</p>	<p>other networks and forums for those working in the homelessness space and have established systems to engage with these and intersecting groups and organisations. Through the support of colleagues at Justlife and our collective sector wide activities I would build on the connections already established seeking opportunities to build further relationships where appropriate.</p>	<p>homelessness and support services – and over this time have gained extensive knowledge relating to homelessness and it’s impacts – both in youth homelessness and accommodation-based services. I have also worked within mental health and women’s support services.</p>
<p>Kirsty Walker, The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in role share</p>	<p>I have been tackling health inequalities in Brighton & Hove neighbourhoods in the top 20% on the multiple index of deprivation for 30 years.</p> <p>I would like to ensure our sector’s voice, especially from those communities of place and identity experiencing inequalities, is heard in shaping changes to the health & care system.</p>	<p>I have been a rep for about 10 years and have participated in council partnership groups and committees, e.g. health & wellbeing board, equality & inclusion partnership, and full council. Alongside this I coordinate the Thriving Communities Partnership, the council funded partnership for community engagement, development & infrastructure in the city and so regularly negotiate with commissioners on behalf of partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the council-funded Thriving Community’s Partnership of 21 sector partners I have a broad network across them and the groups they work with. • My work across neighbourhoods for 30 years also means I also have trusted networks with individual leaders and activists across many of our city’s communities. • My role at TDC includes our communities work, which means I have connection with groups across neighbourhoods. This includes networks of service providers and community forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sound knowledge of the sector and what it can offer. • An understanding of the needs of people in neighbourhoods, experiencing inequalities, including health inequalities. • A working knowledge of processes in local & central government, including the emerging health & care systems. • Experience in partnership development.

<p>Lisa Dando, Brighton Women's Centre (BWC)</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in role share</p>	<p>I have been Director of Brighton Women's Centre for over 15 years and worked in the women's sector in Brighton and Hove for over 25 years. As such I have extensive knowledge of inequalities and the multiple disadvantages affecting residents in our city.</p>	<p>I attend a range of national, regional and local strategic partnerships where there is representation across all statutory sectors. This includes setting up with other VCSE CEO's the National Women's Justice Coalition, attending steering groups for the Kent Surrey Sussex Mental Health Collaborative, the cross sector Sussex wide Reducing Offending Board and B&H Violence Against Women, Girls, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence (VAWG) Strategic Board, chaired by a local Councillor and senior officer at BHCC, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Oversight Board and chairing one of the four sub-groups with a focus on Supporting Survivors.</p>	<p>As a Rep I plan to engage with the VCSE by regular attendance at the Rep Council meetings, feedback from the groups where I represent the sector and engagement with fellow Reps. As Reps we have responsibility to disseminate and gather feedback from the members by ensuring as a network we are represented on local forums. As the Director of BWC, which is a women centre supporting women across multiple pathways of need we have robust partnerships with other services which supports good channels of communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Safety - 80% of the women we work with have experienced VAWG • Homelessness – research and feasibility reports disseminated nationally on women's homelessness • Economic inequality for women – research and evaluation with the Women's Budget Group
<p>Mark Strong, Bricycles</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in role share</p>	<p>I have been active in local and city-wide community issues for many years, including Community Works Transport & Public Realm Rep (now part of the Community role). I'd like to continue representing Community Works on these issues as I have been able to influence council's decisions to ensure greater inclusivity & engagement.</p>	<p>I have attended many meetings as a Rep, both regularly and ad-hoc (and have always been clear that I am representing Community Works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at BHCC City Transport Partnership • Attendance at discussions around detailed design e.g. Valley Gardens 3 • Co-opted member of BHCC Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee representing voluntary and community sector • Member of Task & Finish Groups set up by BHCC, e.g. on the impact of short-term lets (e.g. AirBNB) • Asking public questions at BHCC Cabinet 	<p>I am already part of several transport and planning networks (e.g. BHCC events, Possability People "Get Involved Group"). I will continue to attend their meetings and forums to understand current concerns and distribute information.</p> <p>As the role is now a wider "Communities" remit I will discuss with CW staff and the 2 other Reps if there are other networks, we should join to build relationships, e.g. BHCC housing committees, "Friends of" groups representing parks.</p>	<p>I am a transport planner so bring a professional perspective, but I always place community issues first. This has enabled me to influence project to reflects residents' needs e.g. better provision for Disabled people in Valley Gardens.</p> <p>I am Jewish and so understand the needs and concerns of minoritised communities.</p>

		I have also been involved in community meetings e.g. representing my residents' association at NHS meeting on local surgery move/closure.	As I have done in the past, I will continue to provide information on the various BHCW forums, attend Reps council meetings and provide feedback to other Reps.	
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Role: Health and Care (adults)

5 full vacancies + 1 Trainee	Number of candidates: 11
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The main purpose of this role is to interact with local health and care structures and other strategic city-wide groups when decisions involving health and care are being made. At least one Rep will need to have expertise in mental health. Other areas of this work can include adult safeguarding and carers, though reps may be required to provide general representation around health and care.

Candidate details	Why do you want to be an elected voluntary and community sector rep?	The Rep role involves attending meetings with council officers & councillors, NHS senior staff and other partners, to represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector. Please outline the experience you have of attending similar meetings to represent your community/group/organisation. For a Trainee role, we don't expect you to have this experience, you are still welcome to answer this question	Given that this role depends upon connection with the wider voluntary and community sector, how do you plan to use your existing networks to engage with other groups / organisations, to gather their concerns and to share information with them? If you don't have existing networks, how do you plan to build relationships within the wider sector?	What areas of expertise do you have that may be useful for the Rep role e.g. specific areas of work or understanding of specific communities?
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<p>Dr Anusree Biswas, Bridging Change</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>I have a strong commitment to nurturing cohesion, opportunity, equity and fairness - whether they are seldom heard or from the wider community within Brighton and Hove. I am unafraid to challenge; reach out to those I disagree with and to work with decision-makers to make a positive impact.</p>	<p>As a Community Works rep for 10 years, I sat on the Brighton and Hove Council's Equalities Committees until I was recruited to be a standing invitee for the council's Policy and Resources Committee in 2020. I was Stop Search Chair for Sussex Police for 8 years and currently am Use of Force Independent Chair for Sussex Police. I sit as the voluntary sector rep for Brighton and Hove at NHS Sussex Assembly. I try to gather voluntary and community sector views to ensure that their voices are heard in NHS, councils and other partners spaces.</p>	<p>Currently, as Bridging Change director I am involved in several formal partnerships including Ageing Well (Impact Initiatives), UOK, Together Co, Infrastructure and Engagement partnerships (TCIF) where we link in with organisations across the Brighton and Hove and across community development organisations and identity-based organisations across all equality strands. As Bridging Change, we lead the BRM infrastructure network inviting racialised minority groups and organisations across Brighton and Hove. I attend the Community Works run Health and Social Care network together these networks enable me to gather concerns and to share information with them.</p>	<p>Working within Bridging Change I've grown my previous experience of working with racialised individuals/communities in the context of health and social care, working across ageing well, community mental health, engagement, research, social prescribing, climate and infrastructure.</p> <p>I am also the national safeguarding adults programme lead for Local Government Association, supporting councils.</p>
<p>Barbara Harris, Diversity Resource International (DRI)</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>I would like to be elected because I am passionate about making a positive difference within the community and ensuring that as wide a variety of voices are heard. I am aware of how important it is to have someone who listens, communicates clearly, and represents everyone fairly.</p>	<p>Between 2007 and 2021, I was Lead for Equality at University Hospitals Sussex. During this time, I attended and engaged in similar meetings (Equip – Equality and Inclusion Partnership meetings). Since joining DRI in November 2025 I have become part of East Sussex Migration Partnership meetings and believe I can use my skillset to support the people of Brighton and Hove as well as wider East Sussex.</p> <p>Having been part of the Public Sector and now the Community Sector, this gives me a unique perspective. I believe I have strong communication and</p>	<p>I will aim to re-establish links previously established whilst working for the NHS, this includes both public and community sector. Moving forward will also fully utilise connections via DRI and our sister organisation Vandu Languages Services. I will work with our Admin to promote widely the outreach work that is being undertaken, encouraging other organisations to also work with us and be involved in engaging with their community base.</p> <p>Through the links that DRI has, I will engage with organisations such as BMECP, BARCO and We are The Tree to</p>	<p>I am used to public speaking and engaging with diverse communities. Working with senior leaders was part of my previous role and now with DRI through some of their engagement networks within Lewes and East Sussex. I believe this would help in a future position of Rep.</p>

		listening skills – and the cultural awareness to support this role.	ensure I am able to represent the voices of as many people as possible.	
<p>Bela Emerson, Brighton & Hove Music for Connection (BHMC)</p> <p>Interested in role share</p>	<p>Community Works have been a huge part of my professional journey since founding BHMC in 2014, giving me extensive ongoing practical insight into B&H’s VCSE sector. I’m keen to contribute my creative and communication skills to represent the people, communities, and networks I work with on this sector-wide level.</p>	<p>I have been an active contributor in CW / other sector-support networking events since 2013. I am a trustee of Sound Sense (UK-wide community music infrastructure organisation) 2013-2017/re-elected 2025. I have a good knowledge of roles, organisations, and challenges across the sector.</p> <p>I am experienced in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking various roles in meetings of several local VCSE organisations (inc. BHMC, Brighton Cuddle Space) • facilitating: skilled at listening, note-taking, • summarising, representing participants’ views • writing applications and reports; planning and evaluating <p>I aim to be impartial and support cohesion, while asking necessary questions and representing my community effectively.</p>	<p>I am well-placed to represent either older people or within health and care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHMC have relevant long-standing networks – our work connects people via creative participation, self-expression, communication • In my various roles (inc. community musician / in healthcare, ALS facilitator), I actively connect and consult with an extensive range of people; I am also experienced at disseminating info informally and via e-lists/hard copy distro • My roles span senior management to frontline worker, & paid and voluntary roles within the sector, i.e.: I meet and liaise with people in all these capacities • I’ve lived/worked in B&H for 25 years, with strong, active, vibrant networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived experience of being 50+, queer, neurodivergent • Frontline community/healthcare creative professional • Founder of a thriving local CIC (funded locally/nationally + via trading) • Experienced mentor / Action Learning Set facilitator / trainer • Extensive training in communication, consent, inclusive practice • Professional proofreader • Embedded creative approach • Newly qualified ethical mindfulness teacher
<p>Caroline Ridley, Impact Initiatives</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>Because I am committed to ensuring the sector’s vital contribution is recognised, respected, and included in planning, budgeting and decision-making. With extensive experience in Brighton</p>	<p>I have extensive experience representing the voluntary and community sector at local authority boards, committees and Health & Wellbeing Boards. I have represented children and young people, older people, and wider health and wellbeing issues, working closely with council officers, councillors, NHS staff and partners. Through this I have developed</p>	<p>Having worked in Brighton & Hove voluntary and community sector for 30 years, including 10+ in representative roles, I am embedded in wide-ranging networks across all ages and areas of work. Through Impact’s partnerships with NHS, BHCC and community organisations, leadership of the Ageing Well partnership, and involvement in CEO networks, I regularly share information,</p>	<p>30 years working across Sussex with people of all ages, I have expertise in health and wellbeing, children and young people, older people, and voluntary sector collaboration. I bring broad insight into communities and</p>

	& Hove and across Sussex, strong relationships across all stakeholders, collaborative networking skills, I represent the sector effectively ensuring service user challenges are clearly understood.	strong, positive relationships and a good understanding of how these systems operate. I am confident contributing in meetings, proposing agenda items, and convening discussions beforehand to ensure sector views are well represented. My experience working alongside the NHS also gives me insight into its complexities and how to engage constructively.	gather concerns and convene discussions before and after key meetings. These relationships span large national organisations to small grassroots groups. My Health & Wellbeing Board role has also strengthened relationships with decision-makers, enabling effective advocacy and ensuring sector voices are represented and fed back clearly.	inequalities, alongside strong partnership-building, networking and influencing skills across the voluntary sector, NHS and local authorities.
Emily Daniel, Together Co Full Role	I am passionate about the value of the voluntary sector's community links, knowledge and insight in shaping policy, strategy and decisions, particularly around local need, service gaps and access barriers. I would welcome the opportunity to represent and advocate for the sector, strengthen collaboration, influence change and improve local systems.	I have extensive experience of attending strategic meetings and representing organisations and communities. I oversee two social prescribing services, one commissioned by the NHS and one by a local Primary Care Network, working closely with health and care commissioners and senior primary care colleagues. I am part of Integrated Neighbourhood Team leadership groups across the city, contributing to quarterly meetings with senior NHS, public health, council, primary care and VCSE partners. As CEO, I attend Board meetings with trustees and work with other CEOs and senior leaders. I have also attended council committee meetings and led local events involving councillors and community partners.	As CEO of an organisation that leads the Social Prescribing Plus partnership, I bring experience of coordinating five VCSE organisations to improve access to support for people from minoritised communities through trusted community relationships. As a partner in both the Ageing Well partnership and UOK community mental health partnership, and through Community Works, city forums and networks, partner relationships and informal partnerships, I have strong connections across the voluntary and community sector. I would use these networks to gather concerns, share information and identify shared issues, while actively seeking views beyond my existing contacts to ensure smaller organisations and underrepresented communities are heard.	I bring 14 years' voluntary sector experience across loneliness, social health, dementia and carers, alongside frontline NHS mental health experience. I offer strong citywide health and care insight through social prescribing, community support and partnership working, with safeguarding knowledge, relationship-building skills and calm, thoughtful judgement in complex discussions.
Kirsty Walker, The Trust	I have been tackling health inequalities in Brighton & Hove neighbourhoods in the	I have been a rep for about 10 years and have participated in council partnership groups and committees, e.g. health &	Through the council funded Thriving Community's Partnership of 21 sector partners I have a broad network across them and the groups they work with.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sound knowledge of the sector and what it can offer.

<p>for Developing Communities (TDC)</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in role share</p>	<p>top 20% on the multiple index of deprivation for 30 years.</p> <p>I would like to ensure our sector's voice, especially from those communities of place and identity experiencing inequalities, is heard in shaping changes to the health & care system.</p>	<p>wellbeing board, equality & inclusion partnership, and full council.</p> <p>I am involved in the development of the Central & East Integrated Community Teams, including leadership groups, health forums and community panels. This involves liaising with primary care and wider health services and commissioners and ensuring community voice.</p>	<p>My work across neighbourhoods for 30 years also means I also have trusted networks with individual leaders and activists across many of our city's communities.</p> <p>I oversee all of TDC's work in communities. This includes health & wellbeing networks through the health forums and insight panels, connectors and champions in communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the needs of people in neighbourhoods, experiencing inequalities, including health inequalities. • A working knowledge of processes in local & central government, including the emerging health & care systems. • Experience in partnership development
<p>Natasha Barefield, Possability People</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in trainee role</p>	<p>I want to ensure disabled people's lived experiences directly shape decisions across Brighton & Hove. As a disabled person and in my role, I am closely connected to lived experience communities, VCSE organisations and strategic partners, allowing me to bring grounded, intersectional perspectives into decision-making spaces and strengthen collaboration between communities, the</p>	<p>I regularly represent disabled people and communities within strategic partnerships across Brighton & Hove and Sussex, including council, NHS and VCSE forums. My role involves bringing lived experience insight into discussions around accessibility, mental health, transport, inclusion and health inequalities, particularly supporting people often excluded from traditional consultation and decision-making spaces.</p> <p>I coordinate lived experience, co-production and community engagement work, connecting organisations, communities and systems together. I also support collaboration between VCSE organisations, councils and NHS partners to ensure disabled people's voices and intersectional experiences</p>	<p>I already work closely with disabled people's organisations, grassroots community groups and wider VCSE networks across Brighton & Hove and Sussex. Through lived experience groups, outreach and partnership projects, I maintain regular contact with people whose voices are often excluded from strategic conversations.</p> <p>I would use these existing relationships to gather concerns, share updates and support stronger collaboration between sectors. I am particularly committed to intersectional engagement, recognising how disability intersects with poverty, race, mental health, gender, housing and digital exclusion. I regularly translate complex strategic discussions into accessible updates and feedback for communities and partner organisations.</p>	<p>Expertise in disability inclusion, mental health co-production, accessibility and digital inclusion across council, NHS and VCSE systems. Experienced in leading lived experience engagement, accessibility shared spaces and cross-sector partnership work, influencing Neighbourhood Mental Health Teams, transport accessibility, public service transformation and reducing health inequalities across Brighton & Hove and Sussex.</p>

	council, NHS and VCSE.	influence policy, service design and decision-making.		
Nora Mzaoui, Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC Full Role, also interested in role share	<p>Having worked in the community and voluntary sector for many years, I am committed to strengthening the voice of the communities we serve, especially marginalised communities.</p> <p>This role allows me to raise issues, share insights, and engage directly with decision-makers on issues impacting the people and communities we support locally.</p>	<p>I attend key meetings including the Brighton and Hove vulnerable migrants' health subgroup and the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), where I raise concerns and highlight the crucial role of the community and voluntary sector in delivering services that strengthen health provision, support prevention, and improve outcomes.</p> <p>I also contribute to the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership, which I co-chair, focusing on advancing equality and diversity, with the sector acting as a critical friend. These roles enable me to influence decisions, ask constructive questions, and ensure outcomes reflect the needs of our communities served while strengthening collaboration and promoting inclusive, responsive services.</p>	<p>As a rep I attend various meetings and events to network and engage with the wider sector. Events such as the Health and Social Care Network, neighbourhood-based health and social care meetings.</p> <p>Through my work at Bridging Change we sit within several partnerships, such as the UOK (mental health and wellbeing) social prescribing and community engagement.</p> <p>As a rep I make sure to consult with other reps before attending meetings such as the HOSC, by sharing the agenda and asking for feedback. As a rep I can raise concerns or pass on important feedback from other organisations on topics discussed.</p>	<p>As a racialised woman, I understand the inequalities faced by Black and racially minoritised communities. As a Focus Care Practitioner working at Wellsbourne Healthcare, a GP practice in one of Brighton's most deprived areas, I gained a good understanding of how inequalities affect people's health and access to care.</p>
Rachael Swann, Grassroots Suicide Prevention Full Role, also interested	I am the CEO of Grassroots Suicide Prevention and an expert in mental health across Sussex and nationally to provide support to prevent suicide, mental health and self-harm crises. I would like to use my knowledge and passion	I have been an active member of the voluntary and community sector across Sussex for 10 years and I attend a wide range of strategic and partnership groups and forums including all key mental health and suicide prevention groups in Brighton & Hove, West Sussex and East Sussex. I am also a member of UOK partnership with 21 local voluntary sector organisations working together to	At Grassroots Suicide Prevention we provide funded training across Sussex and regularly engage the VCSE sector and gather a wide range of information, feedback and concerns from across the sector. We also have a dedicated lived experience group who meet monthly to seek lived experience views to inform our work and influence across the health and social care system. I will keep members informed, engage and gather feedback	I am an expert in mental health, suicide prevention and self-harm with a background of working at CEO, trustee and non-executive level; locally, regionally and nationally. Mental health affects everyone and I have been building relationships and knowledge across all our

in role share	for the community sector to improve access and quality of services.	improve access and quality of mental health services.	through the many groups I attend, by attending new forums and through regular 1:1 meetings with members.	communities including lived experience experts in Sussex for 10 years.
Tom Lambert, The Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove Full Role	I want to bring my 16 years' experience of working in the voluntary sector to bear and the opportunity to represent our resilience, value and flexibility. I am a strong advocate for our partnership work and believe that I bring a respectful assertiveness that is heard in strategic/development settings.	I have represented the sector on the Brighton & Hove Health and Wellbeing Board and am currently participating in a series of development sessions regarding its role. I would relish the opportunity to complete this work; we are close to realising important recognition of our sector including a stake in the prioritisation of themes for which the Board will be accountable. Furthermore, I am a member of the Sussex Carers Partnership (SCP). This brings regular opportunities to engage with the NHS Surrey and Sussex Integrated Care Board, the Chief Nurse on a quarterly basis and the Sussex Voluntary Leaders Alliance.	As a partner in the TDC-led Power and Growth Partnership, I have great opportunities to engage with a wide range of communities of interest. In a rep role, I would align emerging themes with resources needed and available within this network. In leading our city's Carers Hub, I also work closely with other lead providers of commissioned contracts including Ageing Well and UOK. Collectively, we have over 40 sub-contracted partners through whom our communities can be engaged. I hope that Community Base members have found me approachable and accountable and I would utilise its resources to broaden my networks further.	I am a registered social worker and CEO of a charity which supports unpaid carers. Carers are one of our most important, yet underheard communities. Supporting carers requires an intersectional knowledge which gives me a strong platform from which to represent the health and care needs of the wider community.
Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) Full Role	I believe passionately that the best decisions are taken when different people/ types of organisations work together in partnership. In these turbulent times, it feels important to offer to step up for a reps role and help	I have previously been a Community Works elected rep for Health. I understand the importance of ensuring that you represent the diverse voices of the CVS sector in this role. I am confident at speaking in meetings and comfortable at digesting the sometimes-overwhelming amount of information that comes out ahead of statutory sector meetings!	Having worked in the CVS sector in Brighton & Hove for 20 years and via the Food Partnership's networks I bring many existing connections/ relationships. But am also keen to develop new relationships with people and groups. I enjoy participating in events with other members of the CVS sector and keep up to date with work/issues via LinkedIn and reading Community Works bulletins etc. I	BHFPs work covers a range of health issues e.g. good nutrition, hospital discharge, emergency food provision, food for wellbeing which has meant connections to different parts of the health system. I have expertise in health

	ensure the city's decisions are informed by the experiences of the CVS sector.	In my current role at Food Partnership, I meet with council officers, councillors, health officials and local businesses to encourage them to work on the city's food strategy, to highlight the concerns and achievements of community food projects and to encourage a long term/ strategic approach.	am happy to use the CW channels to share info.	inequalities related to poverty and in advocating for prioritizing prevention to achieve better health outcomes.
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Role: Environment

1 full vacancy + 1 trainee

Number of candidates: 3

A key link point between the VCS and BHCC, NHS and other stakeholders. The rep will need to be involved with strategic groups/discussions/projects across the City focussed on the environment and sustainability.

Candidate details	Why do you want to be an elected voluntary and community sector rep?	The Rep role involves attending meetings with council officers & councillors, NHS senior staff and other partners, to represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector. Please outline the experience you have of attending similar meetings to represent your community/group/organisation. For a Trainee role, we don't expect you to have this experience, you are still welcome to answer this question.	Given that this role depends upon connection with the wider voluntary and community sector, how do you plan to use your existing networks to engage with other groups / organisations, to gather their concerns and to share information with them? If you don't have existing networks, how do you plan to build relationships within the wider sector?	What areas of expertise do you have that may be useful for the Rep role e.g. specific areas of work or understanding of specific communities?
Cat Fletcher, Brighton Freegle and Les Gunbie, Hanover Action:	Les/Cat are applying for a second term in this post, seeking to build on positive progress on climate and nature made within Community Works, across its	We have both engaged - in different capacities – with speaking with and representing views to the organisations and people that guide decision-making on climate and nature across the city. This includes: • Councillors and council officers	We have successfully worked with staff at CW to broaden engagement on climate and nature issues with the wider membership, including helping to develop and grow a Green Champions network (based on CW Investors in the Environment	Les has broad experience of working with communities and schools on climate and nature, and a track record of making connections between groups and individuals to bring people

<p>towards a sustainable community</p> <p>Role Share</p>	<p>membership, and broader collaboration between partners across the city over the past three years. We invite others to connect and join up collective efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools’ sustainability support through ‘Our City, Our World’ • Universities • Circular Economy Brighton & Hove network and small businesses/SMEs • Food Partnership • A developing Sussex Climate and Nature network • The combined ‘Climate for Communities’ partnership led by TDC • The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere and Sussex Bay • B&H Wildlife Forum and Green Spaces groups • NHS Sussex/Care without Carbon <p>We need everyone to join together to address this.</p>	<p>accreditation) and free ‘Making Business Greener’ support.</p> <p>We also supported and influenced the successful funding bid for ‘Climate for communities’, which provides a developing ‘voice’ for many community groups across the city.</p> <p>Through her presence at the Free Shop at the Open Market, Cat hears views from a wide range of people about the things that affect them in their daily lives.</p>	<p>together. Cat has been environment rep for many years, demonstrating longstanding commitment, and has huge experience in reuse and circular economy worlds.</p>
<p>Karola Formella, Fareshare Sussex and Surrey</p> <p>Full Role, also interested in role share and trainee position</p>	<p>Over 20 years working with community organisations in Sussex and Surrey, I’ve seen how stretched teams are meeting immediate needs, leaving little space to connect or advocate. I believe stronger relationships, shared learning, and collective voice can help bridge gaps and build a more connected, responsive sector.</p>	<p>Through my voluntary roles, and particularly with FareShare Sussex and Surrey, I have attended a wide range of community, health, equality, and sustainability boards across the region. This has given me insight into different meeting structures, levels of engagement, and how effectively participants feel empowered to represent their communities. Working across multiple counties with diverse demographics has also highlighted how local context shapes decision-making, collaboration, and culture. These experiences have helped me understand both the strengths and inconsistencies in how groups operate and engage across different areas.</p>	<p>I spend much of my time visiting community groups, speaking with volunteers and staff, and listening to their day-to-day realities. Through my work with FareShare and my own volunteering, I stay closely connected to the challenges people face and the small, meaningful changes happening on the ground. Attending networks and conversations across Sussex and Surrey has shown me how much insight exists within the sector, yet how often it goes unheard. I’m continually learning from others and value creating spaces where people feel listened to, supported,</p>	<p>Through my work and lived experience, I’ve developed a deep understanding of food insecurity, sustainability, and inclusion. Having worked with marginalised groups and as a migrant myself, I’ve seen how “otherness” can be felt and overlooked, shaping my commitment to creating spaces where everyone feels valued, heard, and able to participate.</p>

			and able to share solutions to common challenges.	
Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) Full Role, also interested in role share	I believe passionately that the best decisions are taken when different people/ types of organisations work together in partnership. In these turbulent times, it feels important to offer to step up for a reps role and help ensure the city's decisions are informed by the experiences of the CVS sector.	I have previously been a Community Works elected rep for Health. I understand the importance of ensuring that you represent the diverse voices of the CVS sector in this role. I am confident at speaking in meetings and comfortable at digesting the sometimes-overwhelming amount of information that comes out ahead of statutory sector meetings! In my current role at Food Partnership, I meet with council officers, councillors, health officials and local businesses to encourage them to work on the city's food strategy, to highlight the concerns and achievements of community food projects and to encourage a long term/ strategic approach.	Having worked in the CVS sector in Brighton & Hove for 20 years and via the Food Partnership's networks I bring many existing connections/ relationships. But am also keen to develop new relationships with people and groups. I enjoy participating in events with other members of the CVS sector and keep up to date with work/issues via LinkedIn and reading Community Works bulletins etc. I am happy to use the CW channels to share info.	BHFP lead a waste reduction project, run community gardens/ composting schemes and support nature friendly farming on the city owned farmland. I bring practical experience of working with community organisations to engage a range of people in climate action and of influencing the local authority / businesses on this agenda.

Role: Equity and Inclusion

7 full vacancies + 3 trainees (trainees are for BRM/BME, LGBTQ+ and Disabled People roles)

Number of candidates: 12

A key link point for the VCS with local authorities, health structures and other stakeholders, involved with strategic groups/discussions across the City focused on representing the voice and needs of community groups run by and for people with protected characteristics.

Candidate details	Why do you want to be an elected voluntary and community sector rep?	The Rep role involves attending meetings with council officers & councillors, NHS senior staff and other partners, to represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector. Please outline the experience you have of attending similar meetings to represent your community/group/organisation. For a Trainee role, we don't expect you to have this	Given that this role depends upon connection with the wider voluntary and community sector, how do you plan to use your existing networks to engage with other groups / organisations, to gather their concerns and to share information with them? If you don't have existing	What areas of expertise do you have that may be useful for the Rep role e.g. specific areas of work or understanding of specific communities?
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		experience, you are still welcome to answer this question	networks, how do you plan to build relationships within the wider sector?	
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Role: Black and Minoritised Ethnic / Black and Racialised Minority communities

1 full vacancy + 1 trainee
 We have encouraged role sharing by two people with different BME/BRM identities and/or lived experiences, to increase diversity within the reps programme

<p>Dr. Anusree Biswas and Nora Mzaoui, Bridging Change</p> <p>Role Share</p>	<p>We have a strong commitment to strengthening the voice of the communities we serve and the wider sector. This role enables us to raise challenges, share insights, and ensure the community and voluntary sector is heard, engaging directly with decision-makers on issues affecting the people and communities we support.</p>	<p>As Directors of Bridging Change and current, longstanding Community Works reps, we have extensive experience representing racially minoritised communities, the voluntary sector and equalities within strategic council and health meetings (including Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, People, Overview Committee, Safeguarding Adults Board, Equalities and Inclusion Partnership, NHS Sussex Assembly, Brighton and Hove vulnerable migrants’ health subgroup, Refugee and Migrant forum) working with council officers and partners.</p> <p>We recognise the importance of intersectionality and wider equalities, including how age, race, gender, sex, sexuality, disability, socioeconomic deprivation, migration status and other inequalities shape people’s experiences and access to services across Brighton and Hove.</p>	<p>Currently, we are involved in several formal partnerships including Ageing Well (Impact Initiatives), UOK, Together Co, Infrastructure and Engagement partnerships (TCIF) where we link in with organisations across Brighton and Hove and across community development organisations and identity-based organisations across all equality strands.</p> <p>We run the BRM (Black and racialised communities) infrastructure network inviting racialised minority groups and organisations across the city.</p> <p>We also attend the Community Works run Health and Social Care network together these networks enable us to gather concerns and to share information with them.</p>	<p>Leading Bridging Change, as racialised women, working within health and social care both nationally as safeguarding adults lead programme adviser at Local Government Association (Anusree) and locally as a focus care practitioner at Wellsbourne Surgery (Nora), we are acutely aware of the inequalities in ageing, health, social care, mental health and participation.</p>
<p>Juliet Ssekitoleko & Shelley</p>	<p>As representatives from BMECP, we work closely with diverse</p>	<p>We have extensive experience representing communities in partnership, multi-agency and strategic meetings. Juliet member of</p>	<p>We would use our extensive networks to engage with the wider voluntary and community sector and ensure diverse</p>	<p>Together, we bring expertise in community development, social work,</p>

<p>Hurley, Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership (BMECP)</p> <p>Role Share</p>	<p>communities, voluntary organisations and statutory partners. We are passionate about ensuring community voices, particularly those of Black and global majority communities and other vulnerable groups, influence decision-making, strengthen partnerships, promote inclusion and help shape equitable services across Brighton & Hove.</p>	<p>VCSE and CEO networks, NHS's The Patient and carer race equality framework (PCREF) Expert Delivery Group and research partnerships with local universities. Shelley brings over 40 years experience in education, 30 years as a foster carer and involvement in adoption panels, advocating for disadvantaged children and diverse communities. Together, we have worked with statutory, voluntary and community organisations, building strong partnerships, influencing service development and ensuring that community voices are heard and reflected in decision-making. We therefore have the skills needed to contribute effectively and represent the voluntary and community sector.</p>	<p>voices are heard. BMECP has over 260 members, including community groups, charities and partner organisations and our busy community centre provides regular opportunities to gather views from residents and service users. We would also engage through meetings, community events, social media and existing professional networks. Shelley's long-standing relationships across education, fostering and community organisations complement my connections within VCSE, research and statutory networks. Together, we would share information, gather feedback and build relationships with underrepresented groups across Brighton & Hove.</p>	<p>safeguarding, education, fostering, racial equity, advocacy and community engagement. We have extensive experience supporting Black and global majority communities, refugees, disadvantaged children and people with lived experience. Our work focuses on promoting inclusion and ensuring community voices shape services and decision-making.</p>
<p>Dr. Manal Ahmed, We Are The Tree CIC</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>I believe I have lived experience of being black, refugee Muslim disabled woman, I have worked as community development champion for over 30 years, well connected. I have worked for local authority as head of \equalities and Community Cohesion for 5 years, so have good understanding of</p>	<p>I am the one who set up the Race Equalities Consultation Forum back on the 90s and supported the forum to empower community representative. I have represented the refugee communities in council wide consultation and engagement meetings. Currently I am a trustee of Sussex Association for Community Development, which is Sussex wide community development organisations and \regularly attending meetings with East Sussex County council, Lewes and West Sussex meetings. From We Are The Tree side, \I represent the organisation in meeting with NHS Directors for Mental Health, Neurodivergence and disabilities.</p>	<p>I have regular newsletter, which we can put information to shar. Equally we hold regular community engagement events across the city which we can use as a way to communicate with community members, we are members of Sister Saloon , Racial Harassment Forum, Amaz, Women of Colour Brighton Soup , Refugee Forum, we organise five Walk and Talk groups for Women from refugee and of colour background. We run regular young refugee meetings (once a month). We can organise regular online and in person communication</p>	<p>Equalities and inclusion-Head of Equalities and Community Cohesion for Brighton Council for 4 years. Researcher at IDS. Sussex on Freedom of Faith and Believes. Founder of We Are The Tree CIC. Refugees led organization I am neurodivergent woman my self I have accumulative communication and</p>

	how local government works.		meeting as it is needed to facilitate communication with the council.	consultation experience and working experience.
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Role: Disabled People

1 full vacancy + 1 trainee

We aim that this role is shared to include one general Disabled People's Rep and one person representing people with Learning Disabilities

<p>Julie Rossiter, The Grace Eyre Foundation</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>I want to ensure the voices of people with learning disabilities and neurodivergent people are represented in city decision-making. I bring strong sector insight, well-established relationships across communities, and a commitment to influencing policy, challenging inequality and ensuring people are visible, heard and valued in decisions that shape their lives.</p>	<p>I am the current Community Works Rep for Learning Disability and Autism and regularly attend strategic meetings with local authority and sector partners. I represent the sector at the Learning Disability Partnership Board and Autism Partnership Board, contributing to policy discussions and influencing service development. In my executive role at Grace Eyre, I lead on partnerships, funding and strategy, requiring regular engagement with commissioners, councils and system leaders. I am confident contributing to complex discussions, ensuring the voices of people with lived experience are represented clearly and consistently in decisions that shape services and outcomes.</p>	<p>I have established close working relationships across the learning disability and wider VCSE sector, built over many years in the city through both employed and trustee roles and active involvement in partnership spaces. I will use these networks to gather insight, test emerging issues and ensure a broad range of voices are heard. I will share information clearly and accessibly, feeding back on key developments and creating opportunities for organisations and people with lived experience to influence decisions and shape priorities, and ensuring learning from strategic meetings is shared back quickly and meaningfully across the sector.</p>	<p>I bring over 25 years' leadership experience in learning disability, autism and the VCSE sector. My expertise includes EDI, social enterprise, growth strategy, financial and procurement leadership, and co-production. I combine strong system knowledge with a proven ability to influence policy and ensure underrepresented voices shape services and opportunities.</p>
<p>Natasha Barefield, Possability People</p>	<p>I want to ensure disabled people's lived experiences directly shape decisions across Brighton & Hove. As a disabled person and</p>	<p>I regularly represent disabled people and communities within strategic partnerships across Brighton & Hove and Sussex, including council, NHS and VCSE forums. My role involves bringing lived experience insight into discussions around accessibility, mental health,</p>	<p>I already work closely with disabled people's organisations, grassroots community groups and wider VCSE networks across Brighton & Hove and Sussex. Through lived experience groups, outreach and partnership projects, I maintain regular contact</p>	<p>Expertise in disability inclusion, mental health co-production, accessibility and digital inclusion across council, NHS and VCSE systems. Experienced in leading</p>

Role share, also interested in trainee role	in my role, I am closely connected to lived experience communities, VCSE organisations and strategic partners, allowing me to bring grounded, intersectional perspectives into decision-making spaces and strengthen collaboration between communities, the council, NHS and VCSE.	transport, inclusion and health inequalities, particularly supporting people often excluded from traditional consultation and decision-making spaces. I coordinate lived experience, co-production and community engagement work, connecting organisations, communities and systems together. I also support collaboration between VCSE organisations, councils and NHS partners to ensure disabled people's voices and intersectional experiences influence policy, service design and decision-making.	with people whose voices are often excluded from strategic conversations. I would use these existing relationships to gather concerns, share updates and support stronger collaboration between sectors. I am particularly committed to intersectional engagement, recognising how disability intersects with poverty, race, mental health, gender, housing and digital exclusion. I regularly translate complex strategic discussions into accessible updates and feedback for communities and partner organisations.	lived experience engagement, accessibility shared spaces and cross-sector partnership work, influencing Neighbourhood Mental Health Teams, transport accessibility, public service transformation and reducing health inequalities across Brighton & Hove and Sussex.
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Role: Religion and Belief

1 full vacancy

We have encouraged role sharing by two people with different faith backgrounds, to increase diversity within the reps programme

Tim Jones and Steve Horne, Brighton and Hove Faith in Action	As representatives of Brighton and Hove Faith in Action, we want to strengthen collaboration between voluntary organisations, communities, and decision-makers. We would bring frontline insight, advocate for inclusive support, and	Through our work with Brighton and Hove Faith in Action, we have attended partnership meetings with local charities, faith groups, council representatives, and community stakeholders to discuss issues including poverty, homelessness, inclusion, and access to support services. We are experienced in listening to community concerns, contributing constructively to discussions, and representing the perspectives of grassroots	Through Brighton and Hove Faith in Action and existing relationships with faith groups, charities, volunteers, and community organisations across Brighton & Hove, we will actively engage with partners to gather views and share updates from strategic meetings. We will use regular conversations, community events, email networks, and collaborative forums to maintain communication. We also value reaching smaller and	Our experience includes community engagement, faith-based partnership working, volunteer coordination, and supporting people affected by poverty, homelessness, and social isolation. Through Brighton and Hove Faith in Action, we have developed a strong
Role Share				

	help ensure the voices of smaller community groups are heard in local strategic discussions.	organisations and volunteers. We understand the importance of collaborative working, clear communication, and ensuring that community voices inform local decision-making.	underrepresented groups whose voices are not always heard. Building trusted relationships, listening carefully, and sharing information clearly will be central to our approach as sector representatives.	understanding of grassroots community needs and collaborative approaches across diverse communities in Brighton & Hove.
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Role: LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer+)

1 full vacancy + 1 trainee

We have encouraged role sharing by two people with different identities and/or lived experiences to increase diversity within the reps programme.

Gary Pargeter, Lunch Positive and Peter Nesbitt, MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health Services	We want to use leadership experience in the sector to strengthen the collective voice of LGBTQ+ communities with a fundamental commitment to include underrepresented, often smaller voluntary sector groups. We are committed to robust representation, ensuring lived experience shapes local decisions, improves services, and promotes equity, inclusion and preventative approaches.	Our experience includes representing our respective organisations, LGBTQ+ voice and lived experience as part of wider sector representation at local and national strategic forums, working with NHS partners, commissioners and local authorities, and contributing to policy. We have built abilities to influence, communicate effectively and represent both organisational and wide sector perspectives. This includes experience of representation on equalities, diversity and inclusion; health inequalities; health & wellbeing; and LGBTQ+ community development. We have advocated the need, inclusion and impact of the community and voluntary sector and LGBTQ+ organisations within national, regional & local strategic health and equalities forums and networks.	We bring strong existing networks across services, health systems and voluntary sector organisations. We will actively engage these networks to gather insight, inform and support representation. We will create structured feedback loops, ensuring intelligence from meetings is communicated clearly back to the sector. We will work collaboratively with other Reps to broaden engagement, ensuring representation reflects diverse voices and experiences. A renewed focus of representation will be reflective of the cohort of grassroots LGBTQ+ community groups and organisations that are 'by and for' LGBTQ+ communities being very diverse in mission, size and structure, often newer to the sector or engagement.	LGBTQ+ lived experience and informed leadership; LGBTQ+ mental health; HIV; health inequalities; community development; community engagement; infrastructure provision; community safety; volunteering and volunteer management; strategic leadership; governance and risk; safeguarding; partnership working across NHS and local government; service delivery, development and transformation; smaller organisation leadership; equality, equity, diversity and inclusion
Role Share				

Role: TNBI (Trans, non-binary and intersex)

1 full vacancy

We have encouraged role sharing by people with different identities and/or lived experiences to increase diversity within the reps programme

Kettle Malony and Robin Conkerton-Darby, The Clare Project	<p>Ensure the community has a voice in decision making at a crucial time for their access and wellbeing as part of a key TNBI organization.</p>	<p>Meeting senior NHS staff as part of my role working with Sussex Gender Service, contributing to evaluation of that service by representing my service and organisation to an external evaluator and attending regular business meetings. Representing my organisation to partners at events including a Social Prescribers Network meeting, outreach visits to other organisations events and visits to our organisation’s drop-in events. Representing my organisation to the general public, stakeholders and others at Pride events.</p>	<p>Communicate directly with my existing network (by email, in person at meetings and events) and reach out to other organisations not yet personally met and use connections made by my organisation.</p>	<p>Personal lived experience, work experience in the sector from current and previous roles involving advocacy in housing, mental health and gender affirming care.</p>
<p>Role Share</p>				

Role: Women and Girls

1 full vacancy

We have encouraged role sharing by people with different identities and/or lived experiences to increase diversity within the reps programme

Lisa Dando, Brighton Women’s Centre (BWC)	<p>I have been Director of Brighton Women’s Centre for 15 years and worked in the women’s sector in Brighton and Hove for over 25 years.</p> <p>As such I have extensive knowledge of women’s services across the city, having worked in the community and voluntary sector at all</p>	<p>I attend a range of national, regional and local strategic partnerships where there is representation across all statutory sectors. This includes setting up with other VCSE CEO’s the National Women’s Justice Coalition, attending steering groups for the Kent Surrey Sussex Mental Health Collaborative, the cross sector Sussex wide Reducing Offending Board and B&H VAWGDASV Strategic Board, chaired by a local Councillor and senior officer at BHCC, VAWG Oversight Board and chairing one</p>	<p>As a Rep I plan to keep members informed of the work I will do by regular attendance at the Rep Council meetings, feedback from the groups where I represent the sector and engagement with fellow Reps. As Reps we have responsibility to disseminate and gather feedback from the members by ensuring as a network we are represented on local forums. As the Director of BWC, which is a women centre supporting women across multiple pathways of need we have robust partnerships with other women’s services which supports good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the founding members of the National Women’s Justice Coalition. • Women’s Safety - 80% of the women we work with have experienced VAWG. • Economic inequality for women – research and evaluation with the Women’s Budget Group
<p>Full Role and interested in role share</p>				

	levels including as a volunteer.	of the four sub-groups with a focus on Supporting Survivors.	channels of communication through formal and ad hoc arrangements.	
Dr. Manal Ahmed, We Are The Tree CIC Full Role	I believe I have lived experience of being black, refugee Muslim disabled woman, I have worked as community development champion for over 30 years, well connected. I have worked for local authority as head of \equalities and Community Cohesion for 5 years, so have good understanding of how local government works.	I am the one who set up the Race Equalities Consultation Forum back on the 90s and supported the forum to empower community representative. I have represented the refugee communities in council wide consultation and engagement meetings. Currently I am a trustee of Sussex Association for Community Development, which is Sussex wide community development organisations and \regularly attending meetings with East Sussex County council, Lewes and West Sussex meetings. From We Are The Tree side, \I represent the organisation in meeting with NHS Directors for Mental Health, Neurodivergence and disabilities.	I have regular newsletter, which we can put information to shar. Equally we hold regular community engagement events across the city which we can use as a way to communicate with community members, we are members of Sister Saloon , Racial Harassment Forum, Amaz, Women of Colour Brighton Soup , Refugee Forum, we organise five Walk and Talk groups for Women from refugee and of colour background. We run regular young refugee meetings (once a month) We can organise regular online and in person communication meeting as it is needed to facilitate communication with the council.	Equalities and inclusion- Head of Equalities and Community Cohesion for Brighton Council for 4 years. Researcher at IDS. Sussex on Freedom of Faith and Believes. Founder of We Are The Tree CIC. Refugees led organization I am neurodivergent woman my self <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have accumulative communication and consultation experience and working experience.

Role: Older people

1 full vacancy

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Bela Emerson, Brighton & Hove Music for Connection (BHMC)	Community Works have been a huge part of my professional journey since founding BHMC in 2014, giving me extensive ongoing practical insight into	I have been an active contributor in CW / other sector-support networking events since 2013. I am a trustee of Sound Sense (UK-wide community music infrastructure organisation) 2013-2017/re-elected 2025. I have a good knowledge of roles, organisations, and challenges across the sector. I am experienced in:	I am well-placed to represent either older people or within health and care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHMC have relevant long-standing networks – our work connects people via creative participation, self-expression, communication In my various roles (inc. community musician / in healthcare, ALS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived experience of being 50+, queer, neurodivergent Frontline community/healthcare creative professional Founder of a thriving local CIC (funded
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<p>Interested in role share</p>	<p>B&H's VCSE sector. I'm keen to contribute my creative and communication skills to represent the people, communities, and networks I work with on this sector-wide level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking various roles in meetings of several local VCSE organisations (inc. BHMC, Brighton Cuddle Space) • facilitating: skilled at listening, note-taking, • summarising, representing participants' views • writing applications and reports; planning and evaluating <p>I aim to be impartial and support cohesion, while asking necessary questions and representing my community effectively.</p>	<p>facilitator), I actively connect and consult with an extensive range of people; I am also experienced at disseminating info informally and via e-lists/hard copy distro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My roles span senior management to frontline worker, & paid and voluntary roles within the sector, i.e.: I meet and liaise with people in all these capacities • I have lived/worked in B&H for 25 years, with strong, active, vibrant networks 	<p>locally/nationally + via trading)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced mentor / Action Learning Set facilitator / trainer • Extensive training in communication, consent, inclusive practice • Professional proofreader • Embedded creative approach • Newly qualified ethical mindfulness teacher
<p>Maxine Thomas, Impact Initiatives</p> <p>Full Role</p>	<p>I want to ensure the voices of older people and the organisations supporting them are represented in strategic decision-making across health, social care and wider city planning. I would use my strong relationships across the sector and statutory services to champion inclusive, positive and responsive approaches to ageing in Brighton & Hove.</p>	<p>I have extensive experience representing older people and the voluntary sector in meetings with NHS senior leaders, Brighton & Hove City Council officers, councillors and wider partners. Through leading the Ageing Well service and partnership, I regularly contribute to discussions on health and social care planning, community safety, infrastructure and commissioning. I have consistently advocated for better consideration of older people's needs, including those living with dementia, frailty and requiring homecare support. I also work closely with commissioners to shape innovative, inclusive services and ensure underrepresented groups, including LGBTQ+, BAME and older people living with HIV, are better included.</p>	<p>Through 20+ years in the sector, I've built strong positive relationships across organisations of all sizes, statutory partners and relevant national and local community networks. Leading the Ageing Well partnership and Festival including providing the Information, Help and Advice and the Food Access services give me regular contact with a wide range of over 100 organisations and businesses supporting older people and direct insight into the experiences and priorities of older residents. I would use these established networks and my collaborative approach to gather views, share information openly and ensure smaller organisations and diverse communities are heard alongside larger providers.</p>	<p>Expertise in ageing, health and social care, partnership leadership and inclusive service development. Extensive connections which bring knowledge of the needs of older people, including those around mental health, dementia, frailty and inequalities, poverty, housing, care needs and isolation. Strong experience influencing commissioning, strategic planning, national campaigns and cross-sector collaboration.</p>