

	<u>Agenda Item: 10</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	31st January 2023
TITLE:	COST LIVING INSIGHTS REPORT
Organisation	BVSC
Presenting Officer	Stephen Raybould

Report Type:	Report Presented for Information
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1. Purpose:

- 1.1. Update Health and Wellbeing Board on VCFSE activity in relation to the cost-of-living crisis.

2. Implications (tick all that apply):

Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	X
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	X
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	
	Getting the Best Start in Life	x
	Living, Working and Learning Well	x
	Ageing and Dying Well	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. To note the recommendations of the attached report.
- 3.2. To support the development of a holistic, sustainable VCSFE.
- 3.3. To work with VCSFE to give Birmingham more of a presence at national level.

4. Report Body

Background

On the 5th September 2022, the Leader of Birmingham City Council announced a city-wide emergency regarding the cost of living (COL) crisis. This means that there is now a city-wide strategic group who have been brought together to address the crisis. BVSC is part of this group, representing the VCFSE sector, and supporting discussions about how our sector can contribute to wider strategies, and what we need from our partners across the private and public sector, to respond effectively to this crisis.

Birmingham is a city that's particularly at risk to the COL crisis. Our city is on average poorer than the rest of the UK, we have higher level of unemployment and a notably poorer quality housing stock. We know that poorer households, living in unstable housing are likely to be most affected by the crisis.

We also know that whilst the COL crisis is happening right now, for many communities the current crisis has simply compounded existing inequalities, there remains an urgent need for a long-term focus. Many of our communities were struggling *before* Covid and the COL crisis, so as a city, we need to consider what can be done to bring those communities out of poverty, permanently.

5. Compliance Issues

5.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

5.2. Management Responsibility

Actions put forward in the report will be taken forward by BVSC

6. Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
VCFSE capacity reduces as crisis progresses	Medium	High	Improved Commissioning approach
Focus on short term impact of crisis without addressing	Medium	High	Cost of living strategic response groups.

underlying causes of poverty			
Services overwhelmed by demand	High	High	Capacity building activity across VCFSE.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Cost of Living Crisis – VCSFE Insights report