

200+ people
in attendance

120+ pledges
by individuals from all
sectors



BUILDING BRISTOL AS A CITY OF HOPE

WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM THE CITY FOR GOOD

5TH MAY
2018

"Bristol, Bristol. The place of dreams, the place of possibilities, the place of creative aspiration, culture, commerce and its own seductive music."

Miles Chambers, Bristol's first Poet Laureate

How do we work together to solve the problems that have eluded us for generations?

Leaders from across the city came together to share stories of how they are working in partnership as they tackle significant issues in the city.

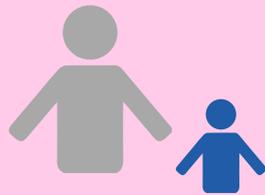


“No-one who has the ability to take up help should have to spend the night on the street”

Paul Smith, Bristol City Council Cabinet Member for Housing, and Jonathan Lee, CEO of Crisis Centre Ministries, shared the reality of homelessness in Bristol and initiatives that have been designed to tackle the issue.



Homelessness isn't just about living on the street. We also have many people without stable accommodation in Bristol who are classed as homeless.



Currently there are 1,000 families in the city who are classed as homeless and a further 800 single people in temporary accommodation.

The Council has a goal of building 800 new affordable homes per year.

“No child in Bristol should go to school hungry”

Anna Keen, Bristol City Council Cabinet Member for Education, and Julian Mines, CEO of Fareshare South West, shared stories of food poverty and existing initiatives aimed at addressing food poverty.

“Food poverty is a symptom of other aspects of poverty. If you're struggling to buy food, you've already turned the heating off, not been able to fix the broken washing machine and not replaced those broken shoes.” Anna Keen

Existing Initiatives

- The Council has identified 3 disused car parks in the city to transform the spaces using affordable container homes.
- The Council is encouraging charities to take ownership of buildings and transform them into affordable homes.
- The Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter project worked with the Council, Charities and their local communities to provide a shelter for people who were homeless over the winter months.

What is needed?

- Pro bono expertise: finance, human resources support, legal etc.
- Land and buildings to provide affordable homes for people (the church can play a role in this where land and property is underused or has become surplus).
- Funding and investment.

Existing Initiatives

- Through Feeding Bristol there is an emerging city-wide strategy, looking at food supply and developing joined up planning and delivery.
- Taking surplus food from wholesalers and re-distributing it to charities, schools and community groups across the city.
- Delivering improved food supply to breakfast clubs and holiday clubs on a sustainable basis.

What is needed?

- Support in running holiday clubs across the city.
- We all need to take responsibility in noticing and tackling food poverty.
- Volunteering, funding or pro bono support to services already tackling food poverty.
- Providing food as a basic offering at all after-school clubs, holiday clubs, youth groups.

"A healthy alternative: supporting people to take control of their own health & wellbeing"

Alex Kittow, CEO of Southmead Development Trust, and Sue Moss from Bristol City Council shared how Social Prescribing initiatives are tackling mental health issues in Bristol.

Meet Amy's GP

Amy is a familiar patient to you. She is in her early 40's and her weight has been steadily increasing since she lost her job. She has come to you with chest pains which, after sending her for extensive tests, you are certain are linked to her anxiety. She currently takes an anti-depressant; however, she has come to you after talking to someone online who has just increased their dosage and is feeling much better. She asks you to increase her dose, asserting that this, and sending her for more tests regarding her pain, will be just the push that she needs to finally attend that exercise class you prescribed for her and will also give her the motivation to start looking for work. What do you do as her GP?

Bearing in mind you were running late so your 10-minute appointment is now only 7 minutes and you have 2 minutes left.



Meet Amy

Amy's feeling really scared, alone and is close to giving up. She's come to her GP for help because she doesn't know where else to turn.

She lost her job because her partner stipulated that she rang him every 10 minutes so that he could check where she was, and so she was dismissed. Everyone keeps going on about her weight, but food is the only comfort that she has, and there's no way she can get to the gym whilst caring for her disabled daughter.

Amy desperately wants someone just to listen to her, to spend time with her, and to give her hope.



Thankfully for Amy, and for her GP, a social prescribing link worker from the Southmead Development Trust is attached to the practice and can provide a truly holistic service, to the hundreds of individuals like Amy, that the GP cannot.

Existing Initiatives

- Social Prescribing allows GPs to prescribe non-clinical services. This has been found to improve mental health and wellbeing for individuals, decreasing the burden on the NHS.
- Link workers support people to access debt/benefits advice, housing support, fitness clubs, art groups, cooking courses, volunteering etc. in their local area
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches people how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue.

What is needed?

- Churches to engage with initiatives like this: can we signpost to coffee and other initiatives? Can you release volunteers as mentors, befrienders, group facilitators etc.?
- City leaders to work in partnership with the church community.
- All of us to complete mental health first aid training.

"The commitment in the room to our city and the willingness to take inspired actions was awesome." Margaret Hickman, Councillor

How can businesses work strategically in the community?

Liz Dunn, Partner at local law firm Burges Salmon, shared how they have been working to strategically develop their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programme.

At the start their approach was reactive to needs, now it is more proactive, linked to the firm's overall aims and responsible business strategy and drawing on the talents and skills of their workforce to make change in Bristol and beyond.

They identified that as part of their focus on quality work experience and social mobility they wanted to work with students in a school that shared their values. Through Business in the Community, they now have a successful partnership with Fairfield School and have run a number of initiatives with students, based on the needs of the school and the resource they could offer. This includes:

- Reading clubs
- Interview skills
- Providing work experience

Burges Salmon also works with a number of other community projects and aims to build long term, collaborative relationships.

"Following on from the event, I'm meeting David Barclay (Inclusion Director at Bristol City Council) for lunch to continue the conversation we started on Saturday, to discuss what business CSR best practice looks like and the sort of brokerage the Council might most usefully lead or at least facilitate."- Michael Bothamley, Partner at DAC Beachcroft LLP

The panel discussions highlighted further initiatives in Bristol that are working to tackle key issues.

Money management

Sian Hearsey, Debt Centre Manager at CAP, shared how CAP professionally trains volunteers from local churches to offer free face-to-face debt support to individuals in debt. Currently the focus is on expanding the provision of Money Management courses across all Children's Centres in the city, of which there are currently 26 in four areas - west, east, central and south.

Coaching young people

Samuel Williams, South West Leader for Early Intervention at TLG, spoke about their initiative of training church volunteers to become coaches for children and young people across the city and beyond. Meeting once a week, throughout the school year, the coach supports wellbeing and encourages positive behaviour and learning. The charity operates across the country and has seen remarkable results in emotional and academic growth.



Families & Children

Sarah Abell, Family Consultant, spoke about the importance of supporting families and parents in the city through a range of services such as Kids Matter and other resources. Sarah also highlighted the importance of us moving towards working together in the city.



The event provided an opportunity for round table discussion across 20 tables of people from all sectors of the city to address the following questions:

1. How can different sectors - business, public, charity, faith - work together more effectively for the benefit of the city?
2. What do we need to differently or better to build an increasing sense of hope across all parts of the city?

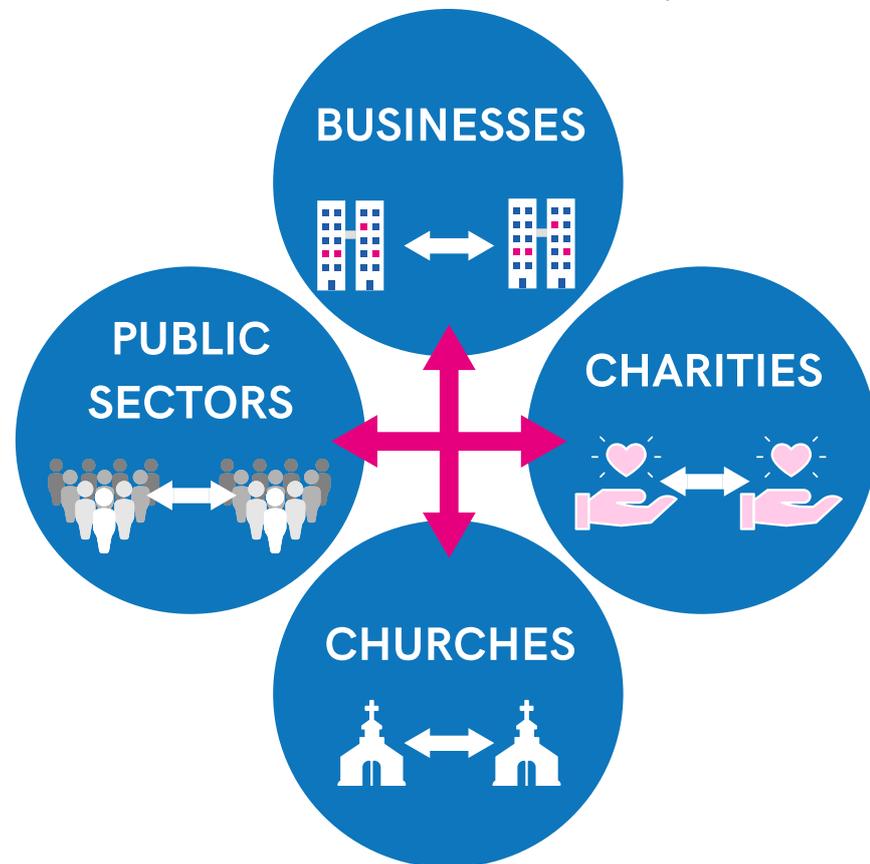
Four key themes emerged from these discussions, along with some suggested action points.

“Let’s build bridges and build relationships”
Andy Street

1. Connection

The discussions highlighted a need for increased connectivity and closer relationships between and across all sectors. These relationships should be built on a shared cultural values system.

- Could we make use of existing platforms/touchpoints that bring sectors together (e.g. Business West, Business In The Community Voscur etc.)?
- Could we work to build bridges across the divides e.g. through mentoring?
- Could we provide physical spaces to initiate and develop relationships?
- Could we provide or make use of online platforms for relationship building?
- Could there be an increase of inter- and intra-sector collaboration?
- Could initiatives encourage and favour partnership and local working?



A shared culture to foster hope:

- Open & honest
- A leadership culture of collaboration
- “It doesn’t matter who takes the credit”
- What do I have & what do I need?
- Believe & hope for a better future
- Enable one another to do more
- Talk positively-what’s already happening?
- “How do we partner?” Rather than “What problem shall we solve?”
- Collaboration not competition
- Improve accountability
- Meet regularly & invest time
- Take risks

2. Access to information

The talks earlier in the event emphasised the importance for us all to know what the needs are and what's already available. Are there untapped resources that could be utilised to meet the needs of Bristol?

- Could we map existing responses, utilising technology to make this widely accessible?
- Could we assess the needs of the city and audit the resources available?
- Could we communicate existing collaborations from Bristol and beyond (other cities here and overseas), to understand good practise and why this works?
- Could there be more events to share the vision and why there is value in working collaboratively (biannual)?
- Are there existing models of collaborative working we can share?
- Could we utilise media to share information with a wider audience?



3. Action

There was a sense that not only should we [talk](#) about what could be done but we must [act](#) too.



- Could we make use of the meeting points already available and could we invite others along to our existing meeting points?
- Could there be a 'marketplace', where people can 'trade' needs and resources? Should this be online or in person, or both?
- Could there be a charter/brand/banner to sign up to, to say we are part of this?
- Could the ambitions of 'hope' be embedded into every policy?
- Could there be a body who takes ownership of this and provides governance?

4. Diversity

There was a sense that the 'City of Hope' movement should be making use of the knowledge and skills of a diverse audience, raising equality and access for all.

- Could we work to bridge the north/south divide in Bristol?
- Could we look out for groups that are less well represented in the city and invite them into the conversation?
- Could we engage more with the youth? Could we empower young people, seeing them as an opportunity rather than a problem?
- Could there be proactive engagement with other faiths, sectors and geographical areas?



"Meeting at City Hall felt like a hugely significant event. Networking was easy - in fact I could have stayed there all day, just talking with people - and the fact that you had business leaders, councillors and church/charity sector leaders coming together like that felt hugely significant."

Philip Jinadu, Woodlands Metro Church



The event on 5th May 2018 was a unique opportunity to bring together leaders from so many different sectors across the city to focus on some of the social challenges that Bristol faces, but to also hear some encouraging stories that can inspire all of us to work together to build Bristol as a City of Hope. We hope this is just the start of something much bigger. We all have a responsibility to combine our diverse energies, skills and talents to do something really special in Bristol.

Marvin Rees & Andy Street

BUILDING BRISTOL AS A CITY OF HOPE

WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM THE CITY FOR GOOD

[#BristolCityofHope](https://www.bristolcityofhope.org.uk/)