

# MYBRIGHTON & HOVE

Partnered with



## Press Release

MYBRIGHTON & HOVE Photo project 2018 - engaging those with a lived experience of homelessness.



MYBRIGHTON & HOVE participant testing out the single use camera sponsored by Fujifilm



Volunteer project manager Lucy Groenewoud (right, with participant Marny, left) is running photography sessions at centres in the city that support homeless and vulnerably housed

London based Community Interest Company Café Art, is supporting the very first MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** photography project, engaging those who have lived experience of homelessness or are currently street homeless. The project is being run by volunteers who work with the homeless community in Brighton and Hove alongside local members of the Royal Photographic Society.

### What is MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE**?

MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** is a photography project using single-use cameras. Participants are involved in the creation of a calendar, which they are invited to sell. Working with those who are homeless or have lived experience of homelessness in Brighton and Hove we aim to create positive community change through artistic process.

MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** is working with local homeless services and charities in Brighton and Hove including Passage, Justlife, YMCA, BHA and St John Ambulance. The calendar makes a difference to homeless people by providing employment and training opportunities, it also improves their confidence and social skills as we include the artists in all aspects of the project.

### Why MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE**?

The inspiration for MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** comes from the MY**LONDON** photography project organised by Café Art who connect people affected by homelessness with the wider community through their art. MY**LONDON** is now in its 6th year, and there are now MY**CITY** projects in Budapest, Sydney, New Orleans, Toronto, and Sao Paulo. We are very proud working in partnership with Cafe Art in the delivery of the first MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE**

Paul Ryan, director of Café Art says; *"I have seen many people who have gain a lot from this project. By giving people a creative outlet to express themselves, participants gain confidence and self-esteem. When the calendar is ready to sell in October participants can gain work experience too. In London and the other cities doing this project 100s of people have been helped and we are excited to be able to do it in Brighton & Hove. Like all the projects, the profits will go back into the local community either to the homeless individuals who sell the calendar or to support local arts initiatives."*

According to the latest figures, one in 69 people in Brighton and Hove are either in temporary accommodation or sleeping on the streets. \* A recent survey in Brighton and Hove spoke to 170 rough sleepers over the course of a week, and found that only 31.4% of people reported having a planned activity in their lives that made them feel happy or fulfilled. \*\*

MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** will address these very topical issues, highlighting homelessness in the city, whilst providing an activity with potential for future development and opportunities.

When is MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** happening?

On Friday June 29th, we will be handing out 100 single use cameras, sponsored by Fujifilm UK, at One Church, Gloucester Place, Brighton. Members of the Royal Photographic Society in Brighton are supporting the handout of cameras, and photography training for the participants which is taking place during May and June. Participants will have 5 days to take photographs that reflect MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE**, from their unique viewpoint.

After cameras are handed back, the photographs are developed and judged by a panel of photography experts and those with experience of homelessness. The top 20 photos are picked and opened to a public vote, after which crowdfunding will begin in August to fund the printing of the calendar.

The photographs will be on display during October 2018 at SEAS (Socially Engaged Art Salon) BMECP Centre, Brighton.

From October to December, we will be selling the calendar with the support of the photographers and local businesses.

Lucy Groenewoud, a freelance designer and photographer, is project managing MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** as a volunteer. She says;

*"I have worked and volunteered with street homeless in Brighton and Hove for the last 5 years. I follow the MY**LONDON** calendar project on social media and really love the ethos of celebrating the beauty of the photographers view of London and the positive change this can bring in their lives. It has been a dream of mine to bring the project to Brighton and Hove, as I believe it will fit so well in our city, so I contacted Café Art to see if we could set up a MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE**. I am delighted that Café Art are able to support running MY**BRIGHTON & HOVE** as I feel the homeless community will benefit enormously from the opportunities the project will bring."*

We are grateful for the support of the Royal Photographic Society, Fujifilm UK, One Church Brighton, YHA Brighton, and SEAS Salon.

Further information can be found on our website, or contact [lucy@mybrightonphotoproject.com](mailto:lucy@mybrightonphotoproject.com)

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\*4,074 people are in temporary accommodation, and 144 are sleeping rough, a total of 4,218 against a population of 289,229 - study commissioned by Shelter, <http://www.brightonandhovehnews.org/2017/11/08/one-in-69-brighton-people-homeless/>

\*\*Phase one Summary Report Galvanise Brighton and Hove 2018 [www.galvanisebh.org](http://www.galvanisebh.org)



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