

COUNCILLOR PAT HAWKES

**Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS**

Councillor Vanessa Brown
Chair of CYPT

Date: 24 October 2007

Our Ref: PH/PJ/CB

Your Ref:

Dear Chair of CYPT,

RE: HIV AWARENESS IN THE CITY

I would request that the Trust give consideration to running a citywide awareness campaign, in conjunction with our partner organisations, during AIDS Awareness week at the end of November and culminating in World Aids Day on 1st December. This would be aimed particularly at young people in the 16 - 24 age group.

The work of the Terence Higgins Trust and the BBC has highlighted the need to improve the education of young people in matters of sexual health. Their survey results suggest widespread ignorance of the risks, transmission routes and affects of this tragic illness among the 16 - 24 age group.

Over 1000 people currently receive treatment for HIV in Brighton and Hove and a large further number are unaware of their infection. The continuing rise in infections among all demographic groups is suggestive of a worrying level of high-risk behaviour. It is important that all people, and particularly those in the highest-risk groups are aware of the facts surrounding HIV in order to make an informed decision to protect themselves from avoidable infection.

As the Trust is working effectively within Schools, Colleges, Universities, the Health Service and Youth Service it is an ideal vehicle for a campaign to support our young people.

I would be grateful to speak to this letter at the Children and Young People's Trust on 5th November.

Yours sincerely



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Labour Member for HOLLINGBURY & STANMER Ward

Opposition Spokesperson for Children's Services