

To: Jess Gibbons,
CEO, Brighton and Hove City Council

July 16th 2026

Dear Ms Gibbons,

Our member Lesley Hammond has kindly shared with us the letter to you, signed by more than 100 Brighton & Hove residents, and your reply.

We appreciate the time you took to reply and we accept that, from your perspective, you may not feel you have seen sufficient evidence to conclude that Brighton & Hove City Council, local schools or partner organisations failed to respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns relating to gender-questioning children.

It is precisely because of that difference in perspective that we are writing.

PSHE Brighton exists because a number of local families believe that they experienced safeguarding failures which were not recognised or understood at the time. Although every family's circumstances are different, there are recurring themes involving autism and other vulnerabilities, social transition within schools, communication with parents, referrals to external organisations and, ultimately, contact with NHS gender services.

Our purpose in writing is not to ask you to accept those accounts uncritically. Rather, it is to invite you to hear them directly.

Safeguarding is founded upon listening carefully when concerns are raised, approaching those concerns with professional curiosity, and satisfying oneself that appropriate arrangements are in place. We therefore believe there would be considerable value in you hearing, in confidence, from a small number of parents whose experiences have shaped our work over the past three years.

Several parents are willing to meet with you privately. They would simply wish to explain what happened to their families, the concerns they raised at the time, and why they continue to believe there are important safeguarding lessons for Brighton & Hove.

We would, of course, respect the confidentiality of such a meeting. Our intention is not to create publicity or confrontation, but to ensure that the Council's most senior officer has the opportunity to hear directly from those whose experiences continue to inform our concerns.

If, after hearing those accounts, you remain satisfied that the Council's safeguarding arrangements require no further reflection, that would at least be a conclusion reached after listening to those most directly affected.

We hope you will feel able to accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jerome Lloyd
(on behalf of PSHEbrighton)