

June 2018 Heads Up

Our Information and signposting line is 0300 012 0122. It is run by trained staff who will listen to your concerns, help you think through your options and then provide information of where else you could go to get help.



Adults' Services In-house Social Care Consultation

West Sussex County Council ran a short consultation last month, asking local people to share their views on its proposals for changing day; residential and supported living services it runs for adults with social care needs (known as Adults' In-house Social Care Services).

We've given a report **highlighting the community concerns** we've heard about the process of involving local people. This included **not enough time and support given to enable people with complex communication needs to fully understand what is being proposed and to contribute to the decision-making** and the presentation of **only a single option for each area.**

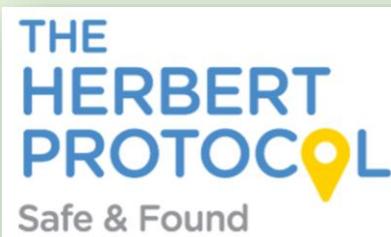
We're seeking confirmation of when the survey results will be made public. If you have not heard of the proposals, or have concerns about them, please call us on 0300 012 0122.

Helping you to find the answers

- Sussex Police are part of the [Herbert Protocol](#), a national scheme **designed to help in the search for missing vulnerable people.** The Police are encouraging local people supporting those living with dementia to complete and keep useful information, which could aid the police in the search if they go missing.

The protocol is named after George Herbert, a war veteran of the Normandy landings, who lived with dementia and repeatedly went missing from his care home. The form asks for vital information about the person, including: previous addresses, medical history, regular routines, favourite places, physical health and current medical conditions.

- The [Royal College of General Practitioners](#) first Ehlers Danlos Syndromes (EDS) [toolkit](#) for GPs and healthcare professionals has been launched. It sets out the latest thinking and aims to improve the recognition, response to and management of EDS in primary care



Improving hospital experiences

You may have been following our series of [Facebook](#) stories showcasing this year's Patient-Led Assessment of the Care Environment (PLACE) hospital visits, what we've found and what has changed. There's been much to celebrate but also areas we'll be revisiting throughout the coming year, to follow-up on some of the concerns noted.

We're particularly keen to hear from local people living in the North and Mid Sussex who are interesting in giving some time to evaluating services - full training and support is offered... **your contribution can make a real difference.**

Call us, 0300 012 0122, so we can arrange for you to meet Jo for chat about volunteer.

Find out more about our work and activities at
www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk



What's coming up...

- As we focus on our priorities for 2018/19 we're busily planning **Listening Events** in Worthing (July); Burgess Hill (September), and Crawley (September/October).
- The team are also developing resources for our *It Starts with You Groups* to support our growing network of local organisation. These should be ready next month.
- Having worked with several voluntary organisations we've been able to understand the current challenges people are accounting with the Adult Social Care financial assessment process.

We've shared these with West Sussex County Council, along with a range of recommendations and we'll be talking these through with Accountable Officers to see what action will be taken. We plan to publish a report on this by Mid July.

- We'll be continuing to support the development of a framework for how our local clinical commissioning groups involve local people and communities in health service discussions and developments going forward.



You'll also find our team at the [Big Health Conversations](#) taking place in [Crawley](#), [Horsham and Mid Sussex](#) in the coming months. These are important events and we'd encourage local people to come and take an active part in the future of our health.

- Our Annual Report will be available from 30 June and we'll be presenting this at the next Health and Wellbeing Board, which meets on [12 July 2018](#)
- [Sustainability Transformation Partnership Website](#) - use this to find information about our local transformation plans and specific areas of work carried out across the Sussex & East Surrey area.

Community Partnerships

We're excited to announce the launch of our **Community Fund** for local community and voluntary groups. Projects will **gather insight into people's health and social care experiences with a view to influencing future improvements.**

We invite applications for awards of up to £500. Our aim is to keep the process simple and applying is easy so that we can make awards that make a difference to local people. All applications will be judged on their own merits and in relation to how they could contribute to **improving people's health and wellbeing experiences.**

Interested groups or individuals should contact cheryl.berry@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk or call on 07966 529756.

Three recent articles you may have missed

- [Healthwatch respond to QualityWatch research report on avoidable re-admissions to hospital](#), Healthwatch, 31 May 2018
- [NICE approves multiple sclerosis drugs after prices are reduced](#), NICE, 14 May 2018
- [Councils going wrong implementation care act](#), Community Care, 8 June 2018

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