

Community Partnerships Overview

Active, vibrant communities, social connectedness, and having a voice in services that affect all contribute to better health and wellbeing outcomes for residents. During quarter one our **Community Partnership Co-ordinator met with over 50 leaders** of local authority, community and voluntary sector to discuss closer working relationships and raised awareness of the role of Healthwatch West Sussex. These meetings have shown how vibrant the sector is, and the incredible energy, and commitment towards their members. We welcome partnership working with any community and voluntary organisation to amplify local voices, in relation to Health and Social Care. As working and sharing together makes the sector stronger and louder.

In June, the **Community Fund** for local community and voluntary groups was launched, with the aim to gather insight into people's health and social care experiences with a view to influencing future improvements. Awards are up to £500 and we have adopted a simple process, so that the awards can make a difference to local people quickly. All applications are judged on their own merits and in relation to how they contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing experiences.

The Community Fund had a soft launch across the districts and was promoted through the West Sussex Community and Partnership Team, Voluntary networks, local publications, and radio show, who's support we are grateful for. Also, through our Heads-Up e-bulletin, social media and webpage.

<http://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/healthwatch-west-sussex-community-fund/>

In June, we awarded funding to two projects:

- **My Sisters House** – for the project 'Mothers Apart'. (peer support sessions)
- **Selsey Community Forum** – for the project 'Selsey Care Shop'. (capturing experiences)

Details about the fund can be found at <http://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/our-work/community-links/>

During this first quarter we have actively concentrated on engaging with pathway networks and collaborations working closer, for mutual benefit with the West Sussex Community and Partnership Team, and West Sussex County Council Library Services, Dementia, Homelessness, Foodbanks, Housing associations, Public Health Wellbeing teams, and specific health conditions. What has been incredible is having the opportunity of meet with committed professionals passionate about delivering high standards of service to support their membership. We welcome opportunities and look forward to working with community and voluntary organisations on future projects.

We are delighted that even before specific new projects have been identified, we are already seeing positive outcomes from these meetings for our wider engagement team; meeting with local support groups to provide presentations, capture stories and insight and raise awareness of our **Information & Advice Helpdesk**, **Advocacy**, and **#ItStartsWithYou** project. We have also developed our [Community Partnership page](#) webpage.

Looking forward:

During July/August our Partnership Co-ordinator has met with an additional 14 community and voluntary leaders. September has planned meetings with: Peabody Trust, Independent Lives, Crawley CVS, Selsey and Manhood Peninsula Managers Forum, and 4Sight.

The Community Fund has been communicated throughout West Sussex in Village Tweets, Community Works and Crawley CVS e-bulletins and webpage, All About newsletters (south coast area), 'RH' (Crawley areas), dementia support networks and West Sussex County

Council Community and Partnership Team (Crawley and Worthing areas), in all a circulation of more than 137,000. We have to the end of August received 24 applications, and have awarded seven projects:

- Home Start Arun, Adur and Worthing - engaging with mums with children under 5 years.
- CREATE - young people connecting with the wider community and to identify the needs of young people in the Aldwick, Pagham and Bersted areas.
- Sussex Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (SEDS)(Crawley and Mid-Sussex) - to raise awareness of SEDS and to enable people to come together and share experiences so that together they have a louder voice.
- Southwater Methodist Church - capture insight from those who attend the Happiness Course.
- COPD Support Group East Grinstead - Capture insight from those who attend.

Healthwatch are delighted to be part of the Community Based Solutions Consortia which has developed and launched **Community Partnership Principles** with West Sussex County Council. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/county-council-pledges-to-boost-community-working/>

Our current partnerships include:



 **Carers Support West Sussex** - we continue to work collaboratively on several topics including our listening tours. This is having a positive impact on the number and quality of stories we collect.

 **Community Based Solutions Consortia** - Healthwatch West Sussex are part of a consortia of Community Organisation Chief Execs (including Aldingbourne Trust, 4Sight, Independent Lives, Age UK West Sussex, Carers Support, Sussex Oakleaf, Independent Lives and Crossroad Care). The agreement of the **West Sussex County Council Voluntary Community Partnership Principles** has been agreed and signed in July. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/county-council-pledges-to-boost-community-working/>
A significant collaborative event is being planned for later in 2018.



Midhurst Parish Church - Midhurst Parish Church monthly Friendship Teas provides an opportunity for young and older people to chat to each other (*cross generation conversations*) for mutual benefit. This is a model that fits well with the Royal College of General Practitioners - Tackling Loneliness - A Community Action Plan. A case study has been published and is available from <http://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Cross-Generation-Friendship-Teas.pdf>



Pathfinder West Sussex (Mental Health Alliances) continues to develop. The Healthwatch West Sussex People with Lived Experience have now completed their involvement and provided Pathfinder's leaders with formal, written feedback which we have been led to believe has been well-received. We are keen to continue to support the vital work of this partnership as it continues to evolve.



West Sussex 4Sight Vision Support (Nik Demetriades, CEO) -has recruited two Chichester University Interns to study the quality of patient experiences as they journey through the Eye Clinics in St Richard's and Worthing Hospitals. Consumer feedback highlights this is an ongoing area of concern. The new interns have received training to act as authorised Healthwatch West Sussex Representatives. The project will result in a collaborative report of findings on project completion (forecast Autumn 2018).

Local Community Networks - Coastal West Sussex CCG

Healthwatch have been commissioned by Coastal CCG to support the development of the eight [Local Community Networks](#). This project is now nearing completion with a final report being prepared.

Better Births Programme

Having been invited to take part in a System Leadership project led by The Kings Fund, we had meetings with the Better Births Local Maternity System (LMS) programme leadership team with a view to greater involvement of the community and voluntary sector in this programme. We were delighted to give an overview of the LMS and Healthy Child Programme to the July Health & Wellbeing Board.



The Disability Trust - A project to develop co-produced Health Discussion Aid Tools.

To find out more about our Community Partnerships work please contact:



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