



Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP) Board meeting, 13th July 2023

Key Decisions

It was agreed that the priorities proposed of each respective Subgroup of the MSP were appropriate for each subgroup to work towards during 2023-24.

1. Welcome and introductions

Attendees:

Cllr Robert Eggleston	Leader of MSDC - Chair
Rebecca Hair	Commissioning and Partnerships Advisor, MSDC – Minute Taker
Cllr Alison Bennett	Cabinet Member for Community at MSDC
Judy Holmes	Deputy Chief Executive, MSDC
Paul Turner	Community Services Manager, MSDC
Mandy Cunningham	Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, MSDC
Alex O’Keeffe	Community Safety and Wellbeing, WSCC
Amy Loaring	Sussex Police Crime Commissioners Office (PCC)
Inspector David Derrick	Sussex Police
Neil Fairhall	Fire and Rescue Service, WSCC
Cllr Jacque Russell	Cabinet Member for Children and Families, WSCC
Katie Rabone	CEO, Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA)
Daniel MacIntyre	WS Public Health
Nicky Dodds	Clarion

Apologies:

Ben Friar	Haywards Heath College
Douglas Denham St Pinnock	Chair of Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils (MSALC)
Lucy Corrie	Assistant Director for Communities, MSDC
Matt Roberts	Community Transport Sussex (CTS)
John Willett	Sussex Police Crime Commissioners Office (PCC)

2. Minutes of the MSP Board Meeting 27th April 2023

The minutes were deemed a true and accurate record of the meeting and were agreed.

3. Mid Sussex Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA 2022)

Alex O’Keeffe presented the Mid Sussex Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) 2022, a document that was circulated with the meeting’s papers in advance of the meeting. Overall, several crimes that had reduced during Covid-19 lockdowns are now increasing as restrictions have been lifted. Data previously showed a 56% reduction in ASB however this does not reflect what people are recording; but this is linked to breaches of covid restrictions.

Cllr Bennett enquired as to whether burglary had increased by 34% and or decreased 31% or whether this referred to several types of burglary, as the document shows conflicting information. AOK will enquire with Magdalena Steel and confirm.

Cllr Bennett enquired as to the difference between “Hate crime” versus “hate incident”, and if incidents are falling but crime is rising, does these mean that people’s transgressions are becoming more extreme. AOK will enquire with Jen Talbot and confirm.

DMI enquired as to which category “online fraud and offence” sit under. AOK confirmed that fraud reporting in Mid Sussex sits within the “tactical fraud and coordination team”.

It was noted that the average age of young person victims was 12-year-olds, which means that some victims are junior school age children.

Cllr Eggleston enquired if any qualitative work was being undertaken to identify why some areas in the district are more prone to crime or more prone to crime being reported. AOK replied that there is some work being undertaken with this with Crest data.

DD was surprised to see the imbalance between the three towns regarding knife crime.

4. Question time in respect of the Health Subgroup Quarter One activities and proposed priorities for 2023-24

Paul Turner (PT) updated. The LCN Health Subgroup met in June and used the SIA as a starting point and the evidence of data to determine the priorities. Subgroup papers would normally contain an update of more action delivered; grants awarded etc.

The following priorities for LCN for 2023-24 were proposed:

1. Adults, children, and young people suffering from mental health issues;
2. Independent living for older people, including access to services and dementia support;
3. Working age health conditions;
4. Health inequalities, including promotion and screening.
5. Cost of Living Crisis.

The LCN commission some projects on “Adults, children, and young people suffering from mental health issues” last year, so although it is a priority, it will not be worked on immediately. “Access to services” is a high-level theme and as such there is a subgroup meeting next week to drill down the main action under this priority.

Board Decision: It was proposed, and the MSP Board agreed the priorities, as listed above, were appropriate for the LCN Health Subgroup to work towards during 2023-24.

5. Question time in respect of the Community Safety Subgroup Quarter One activities and proposed priorities for 2023-24

Mandy Cunningham (MC) updated. The Community Safety Subgroup met in June and used the SIA as a starting point and the evidence of data to determine the priorities. Subgroup papers would normally contain an update of more action delivered; grants awarded etc.

The following priorities for Community Safety for 2023-24 were proposed:

1. Public Spaces;

2. Young People;
3. Hate Crime;
4. Business Crime.

From last year it was proposed to retain “keeping people safe in public spaces”, and “young people”, as there are concerns with offending and exploitation. It was proposed to include “hate crime” due to the increase as identified in the SIA and include “business crime” due to increase in shop lifting, although MSDC has now launched DISC – an online tool for businesses to report crime. Regarding hate crime, MSDC ASB Team in partnership with FFT; Sussex Police, Victim Support, Wellbeing have been engaging with Gypsies and Romany Travellers on traveller sites. ASB has been removed as an individual priority as ASB is encompassed within the other priorities.

Board Decision: It was proposed, and the MSP Board agreed the priorities, as listed above, were appropriate for the Community Safety Subgroup to work towards during 2023-24.

6. Question time in respect of the Community Resilience Subgroup Quarter One activities and proposed priorities for 2023-24

Katie Rabone (KR) updated. The Community Resilience Subgroup met in June and used the SIA as a starting point and the evidence of data to determine the priorities. Subgroup papers would normally contain an update of more action delivered; grants awarded etc. There is no change to last year’s priorities. MSVA are establishing what food banks need from themselves. Work with Community Transport is still needed as if people cannot get to services, then that raises difficulties. The CRS will investigate “volunteering passports”. The demand for volunteers and the complexity of help required has increased. The CRS and WSCC Libraries are working with Citizens Online to address digital exclusion. It has been discovered that an appreciative enquiry and active listening skills are better than digital gurus to resolve digital exclusion.

The following priorities for Community Resilience for 2023-24 were proposed:

1. Sustainable Food Partnerships and Food Banks;
2. Support for community transport;
3. Addressing digital exclusion and support for Digital Champions;
4. Encourage volunteering in the context of numbers no longer available following the pandemic.

The CRS would focus on “food and fuel”.

Cllr Bennet enquired whether the demographic for digital exclusion was age or socio economics. KR confirmed that Citizen Online are layering data, but their priority groups are: Age (60+); LSOA; indices of multiple deprivation; and connectivity.

Cllr Eggleston mentioned that we need to focus on sustainability of food partnerships and food banks and ensure that communities with such organisations are linked up, so that the organisations can share learning and resources, can collaborate, and build resilience to that resource.

Board Decision: It was proposed, and the MSP Board agreed the priorities, as listed above, were appropriate for the Community Resilience Subgroup to work towards during 2023-24.

7. UK Shared Prosperity Fund update

Rebecca Hair (RH) updated. A report highlighting the work undertaken regarding the Investment Plan submitted to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was previously circulated to members of the MSP Board. The UK SPF is a three-year investment plan, and several projects were included in the Investment Plan including the delivery of a new multi-use games area and improved skatepark facilities at St John’s Park in BH, upgraded play facilities and footpaths at Mount Noddy in East Grinstead and sports pitch improvements and a new community hub at Victoria Park in Haywards Heath.

We have received confirmation that the Government has now accepted our plans to defer unspent monies from 2022/23.

8. Mid Sussex Partnership Board – Proposed Review 2023

Judy Holmes (JH) updated. A paper of the proposed MSP Review was previously circulated to the MSP Board members. It is proposed that a review of the MSP with partners be undertaken and that partners will assist with the review. Traditionally the MSP is reviewed regularly and was last reviewed in 2018. There have been a few changes since the last review in 2018, including, the creation of the LCN, and the creation of the Community resilience subgroup. It is noted that nationally there is a review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) currently being undertaken. The national consultation has been undertaken and we are awaiting outcomes. The outcomes may or may not affect the MSDC CSP work. The review is scheduled to be complete within four months and will report back to this group. The review will not impact adversely the work of the partnership or stop any services whilst the review is taking place. The review period does not coincide with the next scheduled MSP meeting and so it is proposed to postpone the next MSP Board meeting until November 2023.

DMI enquired as to the remit of the MSP Review. PT explained that the MSP used to be the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) however the statutory responsibility is no longer in force. Other local districts have a CSP as statutory responsibility, and they have a LCN in line with NHS, but no other LA have an LSP. MSDC want to obtain feedback from partners to make sure that they are making beneficial use of partners time and are not having duplicate meetings. MSDC will ensure that the MSP maintains agility for any potential changes to the CSP changes. The review will ensure that the MSP is effective and efficient, and the Terms of Reference will be reviewed.

Board Decision: It was proposed and agreed to accept the “**Recommendations**” as detailed in the previously circulated paper on the MSP Review 2023.

- i. That Mid-Sussex District Council (MSDC) lead a review of the MSPB in full collaboration with all partners.
- ii. Create a task and finish group to oversee the review made up of members of the MSPB.
- iii. MSDC report back on progress and findings to the MSPB at the next quarterly meeting.

Action: RH to invite people to take part in task and finish group for the review. This group would consider the scope and Terms of Reference for the review.

9. Emerging issues and future topics for Board and dates for future meetings:

DM requested to be invited to a future MSP Board meeting to discuss combatting drugs partnership. JB to be invited to a future MSP Board meeting to present the Life Transition project.

KR mentioned that Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP) has ceased trading and gone into liquidation. A variety of factors contributed to this demise including fatigue; breakdown in communication between staff and board trustee; and piece-meal funding. It was mentioned that SCYP supported young carers and WSCC are trying to bridge the gap.

KR mentioned the “Million Hours Fund”. The only eligible area to apply in Mid Sussex is “East Grinstead Town”. [Applying to the Million Hours Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) The deadline is soon, and Audio Active, who are already a delivering agent at WSCC may be able to apply.

ND mentioned that Clarion is proposing to pull together a “Mid Sussex Strategic Group” soon to review youth services across the District. Clarion will be putting forward a proposal for the lease on the Bentswood Hub and are looking to pay for the two youth workers that were with SCYP at Bentswood.

The next MSPB meetings was scheduled for Thursday 19th October 2023 however to allow time for the 2023 MSP Review to occur, it is now proposed for Thursday 16th November 2023.