



Mid Sussex Partnership Board meeting, 4th August 2022

1. Key Decisions

It was agreed that:

- 1.1 Proposed changes to Terms of Reference accepted.

2. Welcome and introductions

2.1 Attendees:

Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Leader of MSDC - Chair
Michelle Davies	Performance & Community Support Officer, MSDC – Minute Taker
Mandy Cunningham	Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager, MSDC
Rebecca Hair	Commissioning and Partnerships Advisor, MSDC
Paul Turner	Community Services Manager, MSDC
Simon Hughes	Director People & Commercial Services, MSDC
Simon Jones	Assistant Director People & Digital Services, MSDC
Cllr Norman Webster	Cabinet Member for Community at MSDC
Darren Taylor	Inspector, Sussex Police
Daniel MacIntyre	WS Public Health
Maisy Leak	Sussex Police Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Gordon Ackroyd	Acting CEO, Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA)
Sara Smart	Mid Sussex Food Partnership Co-ordinator, MSVA
Matt Roberts	Community Transport Sussex (CTS)

2.2 Apologies:

Nick Dias	Chief Inspector, Sussex Police
Steven Haasz	Interim CEO, Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS)
Cllr Jacque Russell	Cabinet Member for Children and Families, WSCC
Neal Barton	Policy, Performance & Partnerships Manager, MSDC

3. Minutes of the MSP Board Meeting 21st April 2022

- 3.1 The minutes were deemed true and accurate and agreed.

4. Round table introductions and hot topics

- 4.1 Gordon Ackroyd (GA) – Lauren Lloyd (LL) is not currently working at MSVA and GA is acting CEO until a replacement is advertised. Frontline Community Development Workers continue

to work throughout the district. Sara Smart is working on increasing volunteering to pre-covid levels, and work around food partnerships and food poverty. MSVA is a strong member of the Voluntary Sector Alliance and currently has the Chair and Executive Officer roles within this. They also support Ukrainian refugee groups by running a community café at the Cherry Tree Centre, BH.

- 4.2 Daniel MacIntyre (DM) – Alerted MSPB that the consultation for the Pan Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy is currently underway. Important opportunity for people to feed into the strategic approach that will be taken in Sussex over the next few years. The initial consultation is pan Sussex as many of the key organisations such as Sussex Police, Sussex Partnership Foundation Mental Health Trust have pan Sussex footprints and will be scheduling some activities around this. Once the strategy is complete, implementation and delivery plans will be developed to be place based around district and borough level.
<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/public-health/d0a6c1e0/>
- 4.3 Matt Roberts (MR) – Raised a matter regarding funding to provide cost effective transport for Ukrainian refugees.
*RH replied that this was previously raised at Community Resilience Subgroup.
PT replied that he is happy to meet with MR outside of MSP meeting to resolve this.*

5. Sustainable Food Partnerships

- 5.1 Sara Smart (SS) Food Partnership Coordinator, MSVA, gave a presentation. The presentation is Appendix One to these Minutes.

NW – Thanked SS for flagging cost of living crisis that is a real concern. Mentioned Winter pressures that people will be under that will add costs as well as children starting school in September. How families get through that time will be an issue. Need to deal with Afghan and Ukrainian refugees in addition to pressures mentioned. Asked that SCYP be involved in CIO as they have an opportunity to assist young people with learning how to prepare food economically both ingredients and energy-wise.

MR – Want to set up meeting between MSVA and to see how CTS can help with moving things between the different food banks when there are surpluses in some areas. Think they can do this economically with electric vehicles.

PT – Commented that presentation fits in with what is seen in the Wellbeing service. People are coming into service wanting generalised lifestyle support but coming from more complicated backgrounds. Particularly with finances being impacted, health implications such as problematic drinking.

DM – Commented that MSVA are working with PH in increasing the uptake of Healthy Start scheme. Some families with children up to 4 years old can receive additional funding for formula, milk, fresh fruit, and vegetables.

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund - proposed Investment Plan

- 6.1 Simon Hughes (SH) updated. The Communities team, parks team, and partners across Mid Sussex have put the work into this project and a report about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has previously been circulated to the MSP Board Members. As part of receiving the funding, an investment plan must be worked up that is structured according to the guidance. The document outlines key criteria for what sort of projects the money can be spent on. An investment plan has been worked up that originally had to be submitted by 1st August, but the government extended that timeline to 1st September. The investment plan is dependent on several things: that the expenditure spans across three years; is the right mix between capital and revenue; and that it has the support of the MSP and local MPs. The key things to highlight are the work that has been done by the Communities team and the investments that can be made for example in the Cherry Tree etc. to develop the community hubs. Parks and open spaces have been included in the plan as that fits the criteria for developing play spaces, public areas, picnic areas, and event spaces for things such as play days that MSDC are delivering. That meets key criteria around health and wellbeing and community investment. Also working with WSCC on 'Think Futures' project that is targeted at young

people who are NEETs, which is an existing priority for the MSP. There will be some flexibility in the investment plan as some projects may slip or some investments change. Have limited freedom to move money around. The extent of flexibility is decided by the Department of Levelling Up.

Simon Jones (SJ) echoed some of SH's points. This work carries forward important work of community hubs that MSP is heavily invested in. Excited to see the range of benefits that the community hubs will deliver including things that have personal interest in such as digital exclusion and valuable engagement work. Appreciate that this has been time pressured, and the investment plan had to be worked up quite quickly. As SH mentioned, hope to introduce agility to the project down the line. Currently, keen to get project through the gate post so funding can be properly secured.

SH mentioned that also looking at how capital works are procured. As part of MSDC particularly in work around parks and open spaces, have been involved in digital infrastructure, and place & connectivity programmes. The way that was procured with contractors was there was considerable social value included in the contract. As part of the contract, the contractor is required to: provide opportunities for NEETs, provide placements for people to train in certain skills, but also deliver other things such as food banks, work around digital exclusion etc.

NW – Very keen on combating digital exclusion as there are people out there who aren't capable of partaking in modern life. Pleased to see as well as the exceedingly valuable community hubs, work going into parks and open spaces. The many parks and open spaces that are in Mid Sussex need to be good places that people can go to. The investment in parks and open spaces is critical to physical and mental health and wellbeing.

SH – Picked up on NW's point about digital exclusion, there are other projects unrelated to this that can do briefing for MSP at a future date. One of the things that are being worked on with WSCC is some initiatives around free public wi-fi enabling people to use or access the Internet at zero cost.

7. Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) 2022 - main points and implications for 2022-23 priorities

- 7.1 Mandy Cunningham (MC) updated. The MSP have received SIA data pack. MSP contribute towards a partnership analyst post at WSCC via funds from the PCC. This report has been put together by the partnership analyst and the main points are: Children and young people – Suspensions from schools reduced by 28% in Mid Sussex. 12.46 of all young people who are NEET and live in the county live in Mid Sussex. Looking at YOS and YJS, interventions from March 2021 - March 2022 were 45 in the district with 31 offences being committed during that time. That is the lowest number compared with other districts and boroughs. Places of concern over the past year include the Martletts car park in Burgess Hill, The Orchards shopping centre in Haywards Heath. There have been several public spaces of concern in East Grinstead including the footbridge over Beeching Way. Measures have been put in place such as lighting in Beeching Way, so the incidents have stopped. Crime – Mid Sussex has the lowest overall crime rate compared with other districts and boroughs at 6,199 which is a reduction of 9% since 2020 and 13% since 2019. Police recorded crimes are returning to lower or similar levels than pre-Covid both nationally and locally. The crime rate per 1,000 population was the lowest in West Sussex at 41 last year. Violent crime remains the highest category here and across the whole of West Sussex. However Mid Sussex has the lowest rate per 1,000 of violent crime offences across the county and serious violence accounts for less than 1% of recorded crime in the district. 7% of knife crime across West Sussex is in Mid Sussex. The most affected areas are the 3 towns. The top three crimes that have increased in the district are arson, serious sexual offences, and rape. The top three crimes that have decreased in the past year are robbery, knife crime, and cannabis possession. ASB – remains similar but with a 1.8% reduction in MSDC stats. Police have seen a reduction of 9%. Local there has been an increase of distraction thefts, often targeting older people in car parks. Have seen an increase in car cruising just outside Burgess Hill that falls just outside the PSPO area. Looking to review and possibly extend the PSPO area in Spring next year.

8. Review Terms of Reference and Membership

- 8.1 Rebecca Hair (RH) updated. The Terms of Reference of the MSP board and the three subgroups that sit beneath the board are reviewed annually. The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference were circulated prior to this meeting. The changes included the updated priority themes for the three subgroups, which are renewed annually. Priority themes for the CSS are: ASB; young people; public spaces; and fraud. Priority themes for the Health Subgroup include: the cost of living and health implications of the cost-of-living crisis; older people and independent living; working age health including the provision of health support and signposting those of working age; and tackling key factors contributing to poor mental health. Priority themes for the CRS are: sustainable food partnerships and food banks; support for community transport; addressing digital exclusion and support for digital champions; and encouraging volunteering in the context of numbers no longer available following the pandemic. Other proposed changes include change to roles and responsibilities of MSPB subject to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan being approved, is as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, MSPB to monitor delivery of the related investment plan and this will be a regular standing item in future MSPB meetings. The governance arrangements and memberships remain the same. The Health Subgroup is now recognised as the local community network (LCN).

NW – Pleased to see that ageing population and independent living are priority themes within the MSP. Had seen article that in Horsham and Mid Sussex the population over the age of 85 is expected to increase by 33.8% by 2026 and by 122.5% come 2036. Going to have a challenging balancing act between investing in young people who are the future and caring for a rapidly ageing population.

9. Question time in respect of the Health Subgroup Quarter 1 Report

- 9.1 Paul Turner (PT) updated. A Health Subgroup Q1 Report highlighting the work of this subgroup was previously circulated to members of the MSP Board. As the Health subgroup is now known as the local community network, are heavily partnered with NHS partners and are part of its integrated care system (ICS). It is through its ICS that the NHS carries out engagement work and sets out priorities for the local areas of what the local health needs are. The Health group priorities were set out at the last meeting in June. A representative from the integrated care board was at the meeting to discuss NHS priorities which include top 5: early mortality and preventative work to look at that, maternity, people who live in the most 20% of deprived areas, COPD, early detection of high blood pressure. This will feed into the yearly local intelligence assessment and the health data that the group puts in. This will also be additional information that can be used to target services to residents across the district. Cost of living: Next Health group meeting is in September which is quite a way away so have organised another subgroup meeting with key partners from Healthwatch, Public Health, Citizens Advice in the week after this MSP meeting. Some of the key issues that have come up and will be discussed include: transport; volunteering; and affordable warmth. Have instructed the Wellbeing team to run a health and wellbeing network open to anyone with related concerns. A cost-of-living crisis virtual conference is being held on 8th September where Citizens Advice will be presenting on financial support and affordable warmth, MSVA will be presenting on food banks and sustainability partnerships. Carers Support will also be doing a presentation on access to support for carers who are in at-risk groups or are disproportionately affected by what's happened with the pandemic and the cost of living. Wellbeing team will be updating the conference with the Community Connections directory that is services for older people in the district and is very popular with health professionals.

NW – Asked about the way the non-need for accessing GP appointments is being dealt with? Is aware that several people see a GP when they don't need to, but the expectation of people is that they want to see a GP and they can't. Many councillors deal hear of this concern. Can some way of communicating a good message to residents across Mid Sussex

about not seeing GPs and seeing alternative people instead be considered? There is also a concern about people not bothering registering with GP or dentist because they feel it's pointless.

PT replied – Key point being brought up. Within Wellbeing service, have seen a huge increase in GP referrals into the service. Some of that is due to the new roles that have been employed within the practices such as care coordinators, social prescribers, etc. which is good as it's freeing up time for appointments. The next thing to focus on is people not registered with a GP and maybe run health events for them.

10. Question time in respect of the Community Resilience Subgroup Quarter 1 Report

- 10.1 Gordon Ackroyd (GA) updated. A Community Resilience Subgroup Q1 Report highlighting the work of this subgroup was previously circulated to members of the MSP Board. The CRS are aware that pre-covid, volunteering in this region was strong and post pandemic many people registered to do volunteering, and there is a big difference between registering for volunteering activities and actively volunteering. Post pandemic noticed a big decrease in people stepping forward to volunteer which is a pattern repeated regionally and the CRS will be looking to see how to increase and encourage volunteering.

MR – Glad CTS is on the resilience forum. Would be happy to be able to charge vehicles at the Cherry Tree as this would reduce some dead mileage which would help environmentally. NW – Electric car clubs would be great, potentially in areas between Copthorne and Crawley Down, Sharpthorne etc. as they are rural isolated villages. People come into the district as tourism potential and rather than going around the district in cars, they could use a bike. Flagged up climate change and sustainable economy, with the Warm Homes programme whereby PV panels are being fitted to pensioners roofs and roofs of disabled people. They are also doing floor insulation, walls etc. Is this being publicised by MSDC?

PT – There was much last-minute publicity around Affordable Warmth scheme. Could signpost people to this scheme in the support leaflet that the health group are rolling out in early September. The difficulty is that sometimes there are many schemes which run around the same time which can put people off.

SH – Regarding digital exclusion, SJ also wondered if where skills training helping people with digital exclusion is being undertaken, the information that they look at could be useful. So, the training could also achieve some of the goals being worked on across the different partnerships and there is a dual purpose, improving digital skills and accessing information. RH replied to SH – Doing some of that in part. Some of the digital training includes fraud awareness online for example. Things such as registering for a doctor are already included in the training but could extend this to include applications for things such as benefits.

11. Question time in respect of the Community Safety Subgroup Quarter 1 Report

- 11.1 A Community Safety Subgroup Q1 Report highlighting the work of this subgroup was previously circulated to members of the MSP Board.

NW – Gave thanks for the support of the Purple Bus and thinks this is making a real difference in East Grinstead. NW is keen on the linkage with the Mentivity project as it is those same young people who are tending towards bad behaviour.

12. MSP Projects and Budget for 2022-23

- 12.1 RH updated. Funding received from Sussex PCC that goes towards post of Community Project Officer working with young people. Used part of PCC funding to pay towards Partnership Analyst post at WSCC. NEET project is a priority for MSDC. YMCA were unable to continue offering the Positive Placements programme for their NEETs assistance during the pandemic. Currently creating tender documents to run a procurement exercise to go out to open tender to support this project, which will be a three-year contract, and should provide some security for the organisation that is successful in the tender work. The MSPB and CRS will be kept updated

on this project.

Health Subgroup spent £216 for the community event run by Places for Leisure.

Community Safety Subgroup ran three projects that took place across quarters 1 and 2.

Money for the school law days was spent in Q1 but two of the law days took place in July.

Funding for ASB awareness week was spent in Q1 but took place in Q2. The Purple Bus

project started running in Q1 but was ongoing into Q2.

Overall, the MSP was allocated £50,000 for the year 2022-23 plus a further £27,000 for the

NEETs project. In addition to the PCC funding of £38,000. The MSP Board had agreed to

award £10,000 to each of the three subgroups for them to spend on projects that meet the

priorities. As there has been a slight underspend in previous years due to events and

activities not taking place during the pandemic and various lockdowns. There are no current

financial decisions to be agreed by the board at this current meeting.

NW – Flagged up creation of hubs. These will take some support in future not so much financial but in terms of headspace. The rising construction costs are of concern. The Stone Quarry post office conversion has occurred just in time but Bentswood and the Cherry Tree Centre may be subjected to some cost increases.

RH – The Mid Sussex NEETs tender for a three-year contract is a fixed amount per year and does not increase with CPI year on year.

13. Emerging issues and future topics for Board

- 13.1 NHS Restructure. PT endorsed this as a topic for meeting on 20th October. The structure of the NHS changed on 1st July, when they changed from the CCG to the Integrated Care System (ICS). It is a good time to engage with the NHS partnership on a strategic level to have more insight on what they propose to do in the future. Would be good perhaps to have an explanation on some of their priorities in terms of health like the core 20 plus 5 and the key priorities they're focusing on such as mortality and the data they use to get some of that information. PT can speak to some people in the NHS and ask them to come along and present some of that information.

14. Proposed dates for future meetings:

- 14.1 The next MSPB meetings are scheduled for:
- Thursday 20th October 2022.
 - Thursday 12th January 2023.
 - Thursday 27th April 2023.

These are all currently scheduled to be online meetings.