



Mid Sussex Partnership minutes

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Attendees: Paul Turner (MSDC), Lucy Corrie (MSDC), Nick Hurley (MSDC), Daniel Greenwood (MSDC), Councillor Richard Eggleston (MSDC), Katie Rabone (Community People), Neil Worth (Sussex Police Crime Commissioner), Matt Roberts (Sussex Community Transport), Anne-Marie Cooke (MSDC), Jim Bartlett (WSCC), Daniel MacIntyre (Public Health, WSCC), Nicky Dodds (Clarion Futures), Inspector David Derrick (Sussex Police),

Apologies: Robert Baker-Johnson, (Fire and Rescue Service, WSCC), Nicola Walker, (Sussex Police Crime Commissioner), Ben Frier, (Haywards Heath College), Fouzia Harrington (NHS), Cllr Jacquie Russell (Cabinet Member for Children and Families, WSCC); Rebecca Hair (MSDC)

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – taken as read.
2. **Public Health & Wellbeing Strategy**

The refreshed West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out the vision “Improving Lives Together in West Sussex” and provides a framework for improving health and reducing inequalities across the county. The strategy focuses on five priority areas and three principles:

Five Priority Areas

- Food and nutrition
- School readiness
- Transitioning to adulthood – children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing
- Tobacco control
- Health and wellbeing in temporary accommodation

Three key principles

- Reduce health inequalities, tackling wider determinants of health
- Build resilient and connected communities, addressing loneliness and social isolation
- Work in partnership to deliver the strategy

The full plan is detailed in the [West Sussex Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–2030](#), which aligns with the Sussex Health and Care Strategy.

3. Volunteering in Mid Sussex – Katie Rabone

Benefits of Volunteering

- Wellbeing benefits for volunteers in England valued at £8.26 billion (2021/22); approx. £673 per volunteer.
- 75% of volunteers report improved mental wellbeing (NCVO survey).
- Positive employment impact for 16–25-year-olds, but negative for 46–65-year-olds.

Current Trends

- Formal volunteering is declining nationally and locally.
- Volunteer base skewed toward white, middle-class, middle-aged individuals.
- Lowest participation among 25–34-year-olds; unemployed people least likely to volunteer.

Challenges

- Funding constraints, recruitment and retention issues, and rising demand for services.
- Operational barriers (e.g., DBS checks, time), ageing trustee boards, and post-COVID health concerns.
- Decline in volunteer numbers; 14–18 age group often overlooked.

Motivations & Barriers

- Top reason: Giving back; second: Skills/training.
- Barriers include ill health, time constraints, lack of response from organisations.
- Local Data
- 2024/25: 133 opportunities, 57 organisations; main causes: local community, disability and health, CYPF.

Action: RE asked for exploration of volunteering project endorsed by board members

4. WSCC Early Help Prevention Panels update – Rea Painter

West Sussex has been successful in its bid to pilot Prevention Panels, a new Home Office initiative which will further develop our approaches to providing early support and intervention to children and young people who are vulnerable to offending, anti-social behaviour and wider Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) concerns.

We are very fortunate that across West Sussex we have existing, strong multi-agency models in Peer Group Conferences and Contextualised Safeguarding Meetings.

Prevention Panels will evolve and develop from this strong footprint, allowing us to develop more consistency across the county in our approaches to identifying and

supporting this vulnerable group of children at an earlier opportunity.

The Mid Sussex Prevention Panel is now firmly established and jointly chaired by Rea Painter and Mid Sussex District Council.

Action: Rea Painter agreed to share outcome data for Mid Sussex with Board members at regular intervals

5. Local Community Network Subgroup update – Paul Turner

The Local Community Network focused on older people's health and wellbeing, with presentations on maintaining independence in later life, findings from the Frailty Report, and the Ageing Well Project. These discussions highlighted approaches to support ageing populations, promote resilience, and address challenges associated with frailty and financial health. In addition, two project bids were presented for consideration: ongoing cancer rehabilitation classes at local leisure centres to support people undergoing treatment, and a proposal to rerun the Ageing Well programme aimed at improving health and wellbeing for older people.

6. Community Safety Subgroup update – Nick Hurley

A consultation is scheduled for next month to gather feedback on upcoming safety initiatives. Car cruising remains an ongoing concern for residents and continues to be monitored closely. In addition, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets will be purchased and deployed as part of an awareness campaign to educate the public on the risks associated with knife crime

7. Community Development Subgroup update – Paul Turner

A meeting was held with additional attendees from various voluntary organisations, including Burgess Hill & District Pantry, Burgess Hill Youth, and Age UK, to discuss volunteering programmes and explore potential projects. Paul Turner noted that bids are expected from group members for initiatives aimed at improving the impact, processes, and overall experience of volunteering. Additionally, an application has been received from the Museum of London Archaeology regarding heritage considerations for the Brookleigh site.

8. Mid Sussex Partnership and budget (Q2) - Paul Turner

The partnership currently has a forecasted £90,000 reserve, which presents an opportunity to invest in initiatives that align with its strategic priorities. This funding could be directed toward a new volunteering project or other proposals that support community development and wellbeing.

9. Focus of next meeting

To encourage innovative ideas, the Chair confirmed that the board will welcome funding bids at the next meeting, with a particular emphasis on projects that strengthen volunteering efforts and enhance local engagement.

Board members also agreed to receive an update from the Mid Sussex Sustainable food partnership.

10. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 29th January 2026