

MID SUSSEX PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
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Wards Affected: ALL
Key Decision: No
Report to: Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery
10th July 2019

Purpose of Report

1. This is the annual report of the Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP), which is an overarching partnership of organisations working to improve the quality of residents' lives across the District. It seeks to inform Members of progress in this area of work in 2018/19.

Summary

2. Partnership working between key agencies in Mid Sussex remains strong overall, with many key partners engaged in the MSP and its activities. An overview of the work of the MSP is outlined in the report. Despite a changing partnership environment and challenging funding position for some partner organisations, the MSP Board continues to focus on the most pressing issues requiring high level, multi-agency work. The MSP has been subject to a review to ensure that its work remains focused and relevant for all partners.

3. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the Mid Sussex Partnership's progress in 2018/19 and endorse the proposed approach to its future development.

Background

4. Local Strategic Partnership (LSPs) were introduced nationally over a decade ago to be the 'umbrella' local partnership for an area, helping public, private and voluntary organisations work together to improve the quality of life for their communities. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were introduced in the late 1990s and are a statutory requirement to ensure that crime and anti-social behaviour are tackled and reduced in partnership in a given local authority area.
5. The Mid Sussex Partnership is the District's LSP, CSP and Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The Leader of Mid Sussex District Council is the Chair of the MSP Board. Other elected Members on the Board are the Cabinet Member for Community, a West Sussex County Councillor, representative from Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils and Mid Sussex Association of Town Councils. Officer members of the Board include representatives from Sussex Police; Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; West Sussex County Council; NHS West Sussex; Horsham and Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group; Clarion Housing Group; and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action.

6. The MSP has recently been subject to a review in order to ensure that its structure and operation remains appropriate. The review included the investigation of practice with other District and Borough Councils in West Sussex regarding their Strategic Partnerships. Also the conducting a survey of partners regarding what the functions of the Board should be. The review has led to the establishment of a new Terms of Reference for the Board and the realignment of task and finish sub-groups to be in line with the MSP's priorities.

Scrutinising the Partnership

7. As the democratically elected body for the area covered by the MSP, the Council provides scrutiny for the activities of the Partnership. There is also a statutory function conferred under the Police and Justice Act 2006 for the Council to carry out scrutiny of the District's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which as stated earlier forms part of the MSP.
8. Scrutiny by this Committee allows the Council to judge the work and the value for money the MSP represents and to decide if involvement in the Partnership helps meet the Council's overall objectives. It also allows the Council to discharge its scrutiny duties as set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Progress with Partnership Activities 2018/19

9. Each year the Partnership agrees priority areas for the following financial year and plans activities around these. The priorities are informed by the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA), which is produced annually and provides an evidence base to inform the priorities of the MSP. The SIA brings together data about Mid Sussex from a number of sources relating to crime and anti-social behaviour; health; children and young people; and housing.
10. The MSP's priority themes for 2018/19 were agreed at the Partnership meeting in MSP in April 2018 and are shown below:

The priority themes are:

- Crime: Identifying vulnerable people and increasing their resilience
- Health: Improving mental wellbeing
- Communities: Responding to housing development and growing communities

Three thematic outcome focused sub-groups have been established, which report into the MSP Board:

- **Community Safety Task and Finish Group:** to consider community safety issues in relation to vulnerable people across the district where partnership work can add value and implement partnership action to tackle these. This is chaired by the Sussex Police District Inspector.
- **Health Task and Finish Group:** to consider mental wellbeing issues across the district where partnership work can add value and implement partnership action to tackle these.
- **Communities Task and Finish Group:** to consider community issues around housing development across the district where partnership work can add value and implement partnership action to tackle these.

Community Safety Task and Finish Group

11. Levels of crime per 1,000 residents remained low in Mid Sussex in 2018/19 at 45.63, which is the second lowest in the Sussex Police area behind Wealden and the lowest in West Sussex. This is an increase of 2.2% from 2017/18. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reported to the Police in Mid Sussex reduced under all three categories of Personal (down 17%), Nuisance (down 19%) and Environmental (down 24%).
12. The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer dealt with 203 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in 2018/19, down from 228 in the previous year – a reduction of 11%. Neighbour disputes continue to be the main cause of ASB (30%), followed by youth related ASB (20%).
13. Countering youth related anti-social behaviour in the District has been a particular focus for the partnership following incidents of ASB in Burgess Hill and Hassocks caused by a small number of youths creating a disproportionate amount of anti-social behaviour. Measures to address this have come under three strands of work:
 - Providing direct support with identified youths
 - Prevention work in schools
 - Support for parents of teenagers with challenging behaviour.
14. Work to provide direct support to identified youths is being addressed through the REBOOT programme, using Government funding secured by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. The programme is designed to identify young people at risk of being drawn into violent crime and to provide them with one to one support and is being delivered in partnership with YMCA Downslink Group.
15. Prevention work in schools includes the School Law Days initiative, run by the Council in partnership with Sussex Police, Magistrates and relevant charities. These follow educational sessions delivered to Year 8 children at Warden Park School, to be rolled out to secondary schools across the District. The workshops include talks from the Police and the ASB officer on knife crime, drugs and sexting as well as general ASB issues, sessions from Magistrates on what happens at a magistrates court and scenario sessions, plus a session from an ex-offender about making the right choices and consequences of getting involved in crime.
16. Work is planned to be developed on a project to provide support for parents of teenagers with challenging behaviour. The Council is currently gathering evidence on what support is currently available and identifying gaps.
17. Putting in place new and improved CCTV arrangements in the District has been a key community safety project in the year to upgrade existing cameras and provide additional cameras across the District. Replacement cameras are of high resolution allowing for crystal clear imaging, real time footage and enhanced zoom capabilities. Following consultation on their location, five new cameras are being installed at:
 - St Johns Park, Burgess Hill
 - Victoria Park, Haywards Heath
 - St George's Field, East Grinstead
 - Holtye Avenue, East Grinstead
 - Clair Park, Haywards Heath.
18. Hate crime in Mid Sussex has shown an increase in the year. Part of this is due to the greater reporting of such incidents. There were 163 hate crimes reported in Mid Sussex, 6% of the total for the Sussex Police area of (2,550), up from 93 in the previous year. This will be a subject for further consideration by the Community Safety Task and Finish Group.

Expansion of the use of powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

19. In response to increased levels of some types of persistent ASB in the District, Mid Sussex District Council, Sussex Police and other partners have adopted additional powers under the 2014 Act, including the use of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and Community Protection Notices (CPNs). The MSP's Community Safety Task and Finish Group allocated funding for delivery of two days training in the use of CPNs and PSPOs. This has been provided for Mid Sussex District Council staff and councillors and other relevant partners including the Police, British Transport Police; the local town warden and Registered Social Landlords. The training has been well received by staff and partners and is ensuring a consistent approach to enforcement.

Other projects supported by the Community Safety Task and Finish Group in 2018/19

20. The Safe Place pilot in East Grinstead launched in March 2019. A safe place is a designated public place that supports vulnerable people if they feel scared or at risk while they are out and about. Funding has been provided for Mid Sussex to sign up as a member on the Safe Place National Network and towards publicity material to be used across the district. There are 8 designated safe places in East Grinstead including statutory buildings, cafes and community buildings, and relevant staff have received safeguarding training. The next stage will be to promote the scheme to year 7 pupils in the Autumn term and for it to be rolled out across other areas of Mid Sussex later in the year.
21. Improved arrangements for dealing with safeguarding issues with schools have been put in place. Sussex Police now have an input at West Sussex County Council's meetings with secondary schools on relevant local safeguarding issues. Mid Sussex District Council and the Police are also meeting with secondary schools on a termly basis to discuss current community safety related issues.

Early Intervention Project

22. In support of the wider Troubled Families initiative the MSP set up the Early Intervention Project (EIP) in 2011. The project aims to prevent families from impacting on their communities and putting pressure on the public purse. The project employs a key worker at Mid Sussex District Council, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, who provides practical, emotional and parenting support to the families worked with.
23. Interventions typically last between six months and a year. During 2018/19 the Early Intervention Officer provided intensive support to 15 families. In 80% of these cases the planned outcomes of the intervention were met or partially met. The main issues for the families were:
- Parenting support – related to capacity and ability of parents. Also linked to mental health and domestic violence.
 - Diagnosis, or waiting times thereof, of disability in children.
 - Access to suitable housing and ease of access to the system
 - Adults and children mental health
 - Young carer roles for children related to chronic disability.

Other MSP Funded Projects in 2018/19

24. In addition to the community safety and early intervention activities already referred to, the Mid Sussex Partnership has provided funding for a number of projects in 2018/19. These are summarised below:

- **YMCA Positive Placements** – this is a project to mentor young people in Mid Sussex who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs). 20 young people have been assisted to get into employment, education or training. 5 disengaged due to mental health issues and have been referred to other appropriate agencies;
- **Targeted Intervention Project** – this aims to support vulnerable families in Mid Sussex to access other support services where they do not have the means to pay. The project is run in partnership with West Sussex County Council's Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH) service. 25 families were provided with support in 2018/19, including sessions for children on the autism spectrum, play therapy and relationship counselling;
- **Impact Tasty Team** - this project supports families to cook healthy meals on a budget, providing one-to-one sessions. Six families were supported in 2018/19.
- **Think Family Neighbourhoods**- funding for two projects was extended into 2018/19. The Safe in Sussex Freedom programme supports women experiencing domestic abuse and provides for a recovery toolkit. 57 women have been involved with the programme, 95% of whom reported a positive impact. Safe in Sussex has received Big Lottery Funding to continue the programme into 2019/20. Bentswood Community Partnership Volunteer Training provided for a workshop with Bentswood residents to lead on the delivery of their own local projects.

Health Task and Finish Group

25. Health and Wellbeing issues and updates are considered by the MSP Board. The November MSP meeting included a presentation from the West Sussex County Council Director of Public Health on the main health issues for Mid Sussex and the priorities to be included in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

26. Since 2011/12 Mid Sussex District Council has been commissioned by NHS West Sussex and West Sussex County Council to provide a Wellbeing Service with the aim of preventing ill health through the promotion of healthy lifestyles. This is provided through a Wellbeing Hub, which supports and advises people who wish to make improvements to their lifestyle, such as losing weight, taking more exercise, improving their diet, reducing alcohol consumption or stopping smoking. To deliver these services the Council has a contract with West Sussex County Council, which has been renewed for the period 2019-22.

27. During 2018/19, the Wellbeing service delivered 2,046 interventions, with 92.6% of those who responded to requests for feedback reporting a health improvement. One of the service's innovations in the year has been to undertake a pilot outreach service through local GP practices. This has helped to free up time for GPs and nurses. Further information on the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Service is contained in the report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

28. The MSP's Health Task and Finish Group includes a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners including the CCG, Public Health, Sussex Community NHS Trust and Healthwatch. Priority areas to be addressed are:

- Mental health and resilience in young people
- Living well in old age
- Workplace – key messages for working age people

- Targeting specific areas of need and protected groups.
29. Examples of activities provided include a Living Well with Dementia event held in October at the Dolphin Leisure Centre in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society. A Fit for Life Workplace Health Event is being planned for 28 September 2019 to take place at Sackville College in East Grinstead with the assistance of a number of organisations, including the Rotary Club and East Grinstead Town Council. The event will include free health checks and MOTs.

Communities Task and Finish Group

30. One of the themes identified by the Mid Sussex Partnership for 2018/19 is the impact of new housing development on communities in the District, considering the level of development set out in the District Plan. The focus for the Task and Finish Group was to be on the Northern Arc development at Burgess Hill.
31. The MSP Board has received a presentation on the Northern Arc development from the Council's Planning Team, Homes England, who have purchased the site, and their consultants AeCOM. Providing community infrastructure is integral to the scheme and is being addressed through the Northern Arc Project, so the Task and Finish Group is shifting its emphasis to dealing with other emerging issues.

Priorities for 2019/20

32. The MSP Board will be reviewing its priorities and projects for 2019/20 at its meeting on 23rd July 2019. These will be informed by the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA), which is prepared annually and contains a combination of data sets and intelligence about Mid Sussex. This includes information on the District's community safety, health and housing.
33. Intelligence in the SIA includes reference to the cuts by West Sussex County Council to some of their services, which may have implications for the MSP. These include reductions to funding for the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Programme (IPEH) service which provides a co-ordinated service for children and their families, including support for care leavers and family support for young people affected by domestic and sexual abuse. In addition to IPEH funding reductions, the recent Ofsted Inspection report rating West Sussex County Council's Children's Services as inadequate has implications for services for vulnerable children and their families.
34. West Sussex County Council savings also include reductions to Housing Related Support, which provides specialist accommodation based schemes for residents at risk of homelessness and floating support for residents in community settings. Closely related to Housing Related Support are County Council reductions in funding for the Local Assistance Network (LAN) providing discretionary services to households facing hardship as a result of a crisis or emergency. The LAN includes support for foodbanks, Citizens Advice and Children and Family Centres.

Conclusions

35. The Mid Sussex Partnership continues to make good progress in identifying and addressing the issues for Mid Sussex that require high level, multi-agency work. This report includes many examples of projects that are making a real difference to the wellbeing of residents in the District.

Financial Implications

36. Funding for the MSP comes from a number of sources, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, Clarion Futures Communities and an annual revenue commitment of £50,000 from the Council.

37. The Police and Crime Commissioner has recently reviewed the Community Safety Funding for Sussex. From April 2019 for two years funding has been subject to a revised formula which equates to a 10% reduction, with funding for Mid Sussex in 2019/20 of £38,125.89.

Risk Management Implications

38. Whilst there have been organisational changes within Mid Sussex District Council and partner organisations during the past year, at the current time it is felt that Partnership working in the support and delivery of the statutory functions of the MSP is functioning well in the District. Partnership working has not been identified as a key strategic risk for 2019/20, although two of such risks refer to West Sussex County Council, specifically their budget cuts and their capacity to support Mid Sussex District Council's ambitions.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

39. Many of the projects and initiatives referred to above are specifically aimed at helping protected groups as set out in equalities legislation. Where applicable, these projects and initiatives have been subject to equality impact assessments themselves. Data from these projects and initiatives will feed into the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment and will be used to help inform decisions on commissioning of projects going forward.

Background Papers

None.