

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
8th July 2020

Purpose of Report

1. This is the annual report on the work of the Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP), which is an overarching partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations working to improve the quality of residents' lives across the District. The report seeks to inform Members of work undertaken under the umbrella of the MSP in 2019/20.

Summary

2. Partnership working between key agencies in Mid Sussex remains strong, with a wide range of 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.

3. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the work of the Mid Sussex Partnership in 2019/20 and endorse the proposed emphasis in the year ahead on response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.
5. 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.
6. Health and Wellbeing Partnerships work together to develop and support initiatives addressing the causes of ill health and to promote healthy and active lifestyles for all residents. West Sussex County Council have a strategic Public Health role and commission District and Borough Councils including Mid Sussex, to provide Prevention and Wellbeing Services on their behalf.

7. The Mid Sussex Partnership forms the District's LSP, CSP and Health and Wellbeing Partnership with the Leader of Mid Sussex District Council the Chair of the MSP Board. Other elected Members with Board membership are the MSDC Cabinet Member for Community, a West Sussex County Councillor, a representative from Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils and Mid Sussex Association of Town Councils. Officer. Other Professional members of the Board include representatives from Sussex Police, Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, West Sussex County Council, NHS West Sussex, Clinical Commissioning Group, Clarion Housing Group and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action.
8. The structure and operation of the MSP was last reviewed in 2018/19. As a result of that review, new Terms of Reference for the Board were introduced alongside a realignment of Partnership task and finish sub-groups, in line with the MSP priorities of Communities, Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety.

Scrutinising the Partnership

9. 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.
10. 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 2019/20

11. 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.
12. The MSP's priority themes and outcome focussed sub-groups for 2019/20 did not change from the previous year have been continued from the previous year and remained:

Theme: Crime: Identifying vulnerable people and increasing their resilience

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

Theme: Health: Improving mental wellbeing

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.

Theme: Communities: Responding to housing development and growing communities

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

13. Levels of crime per 1,000 residents remained low in Mid Sussex in the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 at 48.7, which is the second lowest in the Sussex Police area behind Wealden and the lowest in West Sussex. This is an increase of 6.8% from 2018/19. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reported to the Police in Mid Sussex reduced for Nuisance (down 0.1%) and Environmental ASB (down 38.5%) but rose by 10.9% for Personal ASB.
14. Sussex Police are investing in additional staff, including an increase in neighbourhood policing for each of the three towns, Police Community Supports Officers, a Schools Officer, Rural Coordinator; Rural Officer; and Heritage Crime Coordinator.
15. The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officers dealt with 161 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in 2019/20, with 204 in the previous year. Neighbour disputes continue to be the main cause of ASB (31%), followed by youth related ASB (22%).
16. Countering youth related anti-social behaviour in the District has been a particular focus for the partnership. Interventions to address this issue 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.
17. 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 Downlink Group. The Council's Community Safety Team, in partnership with Sussex Police, have been proactive in making referrals to the programme since its launch with 72 referrals made in the District during the calendar year 2019.
18. Prevention work in schools is provided via several interventions including the School Law Days initiative; run by the Council in partnership with Sussex Police, Magistrates and specialist charitable organisations such as St Giles Trust. These follow educational sessions delivered to Year 8 children at Warden Park School, which are being rolled out to 5 other secondary schools across the District. The workshops feature 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 magistrate's court and a variety of scenario sessions, as well as a session from an ex-offender about making the right choices and consequences of getting involved in crime.
19. The Juno Project runs programmes over 8 or 12 weeks with female pupils in Years 10 and 11 in secondary schools. The programme enables girls to get themselves back on track with their education and explore the challenges they are facing and look at ways of moving forward in a positive way. Participants are linked with Positive Placements (please refer to Paragraph 30 below) through the YMCA where each will be offered continued support from a mentor at the end of the sessions. The project was running in 3 secondary schools in the District during 2019/20, St Paul's, Sackville and Imberhorne.

20. Further work is planned with the development of a project to provide support for parents of teenagers with challenging behaviour. A pilot project has been agreed with Relate, to provide counselling sessions for families with troubled teenagers.
21. The installation of new and improved CCTV arrangements in key locations within the District has been a key community safety project in the year. Replacement and additional cameras are of high resolution allowing for crystal clear imaging, real time footage and enhanced zoom capabilities. Following consultation on their location, the project is delivering installation of five new cameras, one each at the following locations:
 - St Johns Park, Burgess Hill
 - Victoria Park, Haywards Heath
 - King George's Field, East Grinstead
 - Holtye Avenue, East Grinstead
 - Clair Park, Haywards Heath.

The installation of these new cameras was due to commence in early February 2020, unforeseen delays including inclement weather and the COVID-19 pandemic delayed commencement to May 2020. Installation is now underway and is anticipated to be completed by Autumn 2020.

22. Hate crime in Mid Sussex has sadly shown an increase. This is, in part, due to the greater reporting of such incidents. There were 149 hate crimes reported in Mid Sussex in 2019/20, up from 129 in the previous year. This issue has been a particular focus for the Community Safety Task and Finish Group. Training on recognising and responding to hate crime and extremism has been provided by members of the West Sussex Countering Extremism team, initially to Mid Sussex District Council Members and staff and is now being rolled out to partner and other community groups.

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

23. In response to increased levels of some types of persistent ASB in the District, Mid Sussex District Council and Sussex Police have adopted additional powers under the 2014 Act, including the use of Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). The MSP's Community Safety Task and Finish Group allocated funding for delivery of training in the use of CPNs and PSPOs for a range of staff from partner organisations and is ensuring a consistent approach to enforcement.
24. Prior to the CPN, a Community Protection Warning (CPW) is issued. Since adopting the powers in February 2019, 25 CPWs have been issued and 8 escalated to CPN. It has been found that in the most part, the issuing of a CPW has contributed to stopping the persistent anti-social behaviour without the need to escalate to a CPN.
25. A Public Space Protection Order is an enforceable form of bylaw with Fixed Penalty Notice powers attached. A breach of the order is immediately criminal in nature and could lead to a fine, and/or confiscation of relevant items and/or a prosecution with custodial sentence. Following the appropriate consultation, a PSPO was approved by the Council in January 2020 to address anti-social vehicle use in Burgess Hill, such as speeding, careless driving and excessive noise. The necessary signage is currently being procured and installed.

Other projects supported by the Community Safety Task and Finish Group in 2019/20

26. 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 to support publicity material for use across the district. There are 11 designated "Safe Places" in East Grinstead including statutory buildings, cafes, school and community buildings. Relevant staff have received safeguarding training. Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill Town Councils are considering adoption of the scheme.
27. Improved arrangements for working with schools in addressing safeguarding issues 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

28. In support of the national Troubled Families initiative, the MSP set up the Early Intervention Project in 2011. The project aims to prevent families from impacting on their communities and putting pressure on the public purse. The project currently employs an Early Help Professional 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.
29. Interventions typically last between six months and a year. During 2019/20 the Early Intervention Officer provided intensive support to 15 families, with 8 cases closed in the year. In 7 of these cases the planned outcomes of the intervention were met or partially met. One case was escalated to social care.

Other MSP Funded Projects in 2019/20

30. 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 2019/20. These are summarised below:
 - **YMCA Positive Placements** – A project providing mentoring to young people in Mid Sussex who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs). The annual target is to assist 30 young people to get into employment, education or training. As of 31st March 2020, the YMCA DLG had 26 young people enrolled on the Positive Placements project since 1st April 2019.
 - **Targeted Intervention Project** – Provides support for vulnerable families in Mid Sussex in accessing paid support services that they would otherwise not have the means to pay for. The programme is run in partnership with West Sussex County Council's Early Help Service. As at the 31st March 2020, there were 49 families being helped as part of this project. 30 families have been worked with and are closed cases. Support has included sessions for children on the autism spectrum, play therapy and relationship counselling.

Health Task and Finish Group

31. Health and Wellbeing issues and updates are considered by the MSP Board, as part of local delivery of the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Mid Sussex District Council has, since 2011/12, 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, based within the Council's Community Services, Policy and

Performance Business Unit, which advises and supports people needing or wishing to make improvements to their lifestyle, such as losing weight, taking more exercise, improving their diet, reducing alcohol consumption or stopping smoking. The current contract for this work runs for the period 2019-22.

32. During 2019/20, the Wellbeing service delivered 2,312 interventions, with 85% of those who responded to requests for feedback reporting a health improvement. As well as achieving record number of interventions, the service successfully completed procurement processes for falls prevention and wellbeing coaches contracts and developed and mobilised three new services- alcohol support, health checks and stop smoking. The pilot outreach service through local GP practices has continued, helping to free up capacity for GPs and nurses. Further information on the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Service is contained in a separate report to this Committee meeting.
33. The MSP's Health Task and Finish Group includes a range of statutory and third sector partners including the CCG, Public Health, Sussex Community NHS Trust and Healthwatch. Priority areas for the group are:
- Mental health and resilience in young people
 - Living well in old age
 - Workplace Health – key messages for working age people
34. Activities and interventions delivered by the Group have included two Living Well in Old Age events organised with Alzheimer's Society and Places Leisure and supported by the Mid Sussex District Council Wellbeing team, Audiology and the Dementia Café held in October 2019 at Kings Leisure Centre and Dolphin Leisure Centre. Also, the "With You In Mind – 25 Years of Better Mental Health" event held in February 2020 at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, which was organised by a wide range of partners including the Council, Sussex Oakleaf, Together in Sussex and Clarion Futures. The event provided advice, information about local support, a pop-up café and art exhibition and workshops.
35. Further events were planned for March 2020 but had to be postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included an event organised with the Mid Sussex Older People's Council to provide advice on continuing to live in your home, a Diabetes Screening Event due to be held in East Grinstead and a pilot cancer exercise project working with Places Leisure to fund cancer rehabilitation patients on low or no income to take part in the 12-week exercise programme.

Communities Task and Finish Group

36. The Communities Task and Finish Group remit is to consider community issues around housing development across the district where partnership work can add value. The group is in the early stages of developing a Community Development and Engagement Framework for the District.

Priorities for 2020/21

37. The MSP Board is due to review its priorities and projects for 2020/21 at its next meeting scheduled for July 2020. This will be informed by annual update to the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA). In light of recent events, the principle focus of the new SIA will be on the impacts and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and will inform consideration by the MSP of how its collective contribution to, and role in, the District's response and recovery from the pandemic. These implications may take some time to become clear and will evolve and change, as response work continues and the overall impacts of the past few months are realised.

38. It is likely that the Partnership will seek to continue where possible to implement, albeit with adaptation, many of its current projects. New and evolving needs around existing and emerging priorities will need to be considered by the Partnership as a result of the pandemic, including an increased need for support with mental health issues such as loneliness and anxiety, and support for those facing economic hardship.
39. The pandemic has also seen some new structures and groups develop to support community resilience within the District, especially to assist those who are shielding. These include the local authority community support network hubs and an exponential growth in local community responders, supporting food supply and distribution to vulnerable people.
40. The Government's shielding programme commenced on 20th March 2020 and shields approximately 1.5m people nationally; 5,194 of whom live in Mid Sussex and 2,300 of whom registered for some form of support with either deliveries of food or assistance with medicine or other types of support. As the pandemic has continued, the groups of people included in the shield has changed, both in terms of numbers and the categories of people shielded.
41. The last SIA included reference to the cuts by West Sussex County Council to some of their services, which may continue to have implications for the MSP depending upon how long emergency measures in response to the pandemic continue. These include reductions to funding for Early Help Services, Housing Related Support and the Local Assistance Network. This is in the context of a difficult financial environment for the MSP partners.

Conclusions

42. The Mid Sussex Partnership continues to identify and address 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

43. Funding for the MSP comes from several sources, including the Police and Crime Commissioner and an annual revenue commitment of £50,000 from the Council. The MSP received £12,251 in 2019/20 from the Home Office Serious Violence Fund to enhance the local provision of positive activities for young people. This has been used to fund projects through the Community Safety Task and Finish Group.

Risk Management Implications

44. Partnership working in the support and delivery of the statutory functions of the MSP is functioning well in the District. Key Strategic Risks for this Council identified for 2020/21 include the capacity of West Sussex County Council to support Mid Sussex District Council's ambitions and more recently the impacts of the Covid19 Pandemic.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

45. 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

Mid Sussex Partnership [Terms of Reference](#) 2019/20

Mid Sussex Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2018/19