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| ESSP new without graphic | **Meeting Notes**  **Wednesday 8 July 2020**  **Virtual via Microsoft Teams** |

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| **IN ATTENDANCE** |

**ESSP Members present:**

Cllr Sue Prochak Rother District Council

Steve Manwaring HVA/Speakup

Mark Matthews East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

Becky Shaw East Sussex County Council

Isabel Garden Wealden District Council

Cllr Bob Standley Wealden District Council

Jo Harper Lewes District Council/Eastbourne District Council

Dawn Whittaker Chair/East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

Ashley Scarff Sussex NHS Commissioners

Petrina Mayson Action in Rural Sussex

Keith Stevens ES Association of Local Councils

Graham Peters South East Local Enterprise Partnership

Keith Glazer East Sussex County Council

**Also in attendance (official observers):**

Rupert Clubb East Sussex County Council

Lewis Williams East Sussex County Council

Atiya Gourlay East Sussex County Council

Karen Breen Sussex NHS Commissioners

Cllr Johnny Denis Lewes District Council

Ed Schmidt Environment Agency

Trevor Leggo Sussex & Surrey Associations of Local Councils

Viki Ashby Sussex Partnership Trust

Maria Coppard Sussex Police

Cllr David Tutt Eastbourne Borough Council

**Apologies for absence**:

Chief Superintendent Tanya Jones Sussex Police

Michael Turner Environment Agency

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| **NOTES** |

1. **Welcome, introductions and Apologies**

Dawn Whittaker welcomed ESSP members, delegates, guests and speakers to the meeting and apologies were given.

1. **Urgent items of business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**3) Minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2020 and matters arising not on the agenda**

The minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

**4) i-Rock**

Viki Ashby introduced the i-Rock service, which provided mental health support to young people in East Sussex; explaining what they do, the benefits the service brings, and how people can access the service. People were most likely to experience a mental health problem between the ages of 14-25, with a number of significant life events happening between these ages, such as exams. i-Rock was a clinical access point presented in a youth friendly way, operating drop-in centres in Hastings, Eastbourne and Newhaven, which could be accessed with no referral based on people self-presenting. The service received around 1,500 contact last year, with 50% of these contacts requiring no further services. The centres had to be closed due to COVID-19, but a virtual offer was being provided, including social media sessions. One benefit of the new virtual offer is it had enabled the service to reach more young people in rural areas. Cllr Bob Standley asked whether the service was expecting an increase in cases due to young people not going to school and potentially being isolated. Viki said that some young people were under less pressure due to not attending school, and the pressures associated with larger peer groups, but they were expecting a surge in cases when the schools reopened in September. Atiya Gourlay said that from her experience the service was valued by young people, and Atiya drew attention to the Foundations For Our Future report which looked at emotional health and wellbeing of young people, the report can be found [here](mailto:https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/sussex_cyp_core_narrative_final.pdf).

**5) Health response to COVID-19**

Karen Breen discussed how COVID-19 has impacted on the NHS, with a Level 4 national incident declared on 30/01/2020, and legal directions issued at the end of March which meant NHS England could coordinate the approach and direct CCGs. The initial priority was to ensure there was sufficient emergency capacity to respond to the peak of the pandemic. The focus had moved on to phase 2 of the pandemic, with the focus moving to restoring critical services, and reassuring the general public that the NHS was providing services as previously. Karen outlined the support that had been given to care homes, and the challenges that had been faced in this sector. Cllr David Tutt asked whether the NHS was prepared for a potential second wave of COVID-19. Karen assured the ESSP that the NHS was working to mitigate the risks of a second wave and also to address further risks, including flu outbreaks.

**6) The Local Resilient Forum (LRF) / Strategic Coordinating Group**

Rupert Clubb outlined the legal basis of the LRF, which was set out in the Civil Contingencies Act. Rupert highlighted the work that was done before the lockdown was announced to bring relevant organisations together and plan the response to the pandemic. A Strategic Coordinating Group had been established to bring together the category one responders, such as the police and fire service. A Tactical Coordinating Group had also been created to organise a number of workstreams including PPE. One of the key considerations would be how East Sussex transitions to recovery; and as recovery would be best led locally a Recovery Coordinating Group had been established. Rupert outlined the possibility that we could need to alternate between the recovery and response phases in the future. Dawn Whittaker said there was going to be a national review of the LRFs and how they responded to the pandemic.

**7) Strategic Recovery Group**

Becky Shaw outlined how the Strategic Recovery Group had responded to the pandemic and the lessons that could be learnt. It was important that organisations worked together where it added value, but also not being afraid to work independently when necessary. There was a need to ensure that lessons were learnt from the pandemic, and not just revert back to the old ways of operating and working. Organisations will face difficult financial positions in the future, and the pandemic had exposed a greater level of poverty in the county than was previously acknowledged. Further certainty of funding from Government was needed if organisations were to plan effectively for the future and avoid difficult in-year budget positions that potentially wouldn’t prove necessary if further funding was provided at a later date. Lobbying was vital, with as many voices as possible.

**8) The voluntary and community sector and COVID-19**

Steve Mainwaring highlighted the work that had been done at a more local level in East Sussex. In Hastings an emergency food supply for vulnerable people, a hotline, and a befriending service had all been set up in four days at the start of the pandemic; with over 3,500 people having their needs met during the crisis. Better outcomes were achieved when efforts were linked and organisations worked together, and increased intelligence sharing allowed better decisions to be made. Many of the problems facing people predated the pandemic, and it was important to recognise that some were long term systemic issues. The speed of the response and the delegated authority placed in organisations were both positives.

Petrina Mayson highlighted the challenges facing rural communities in East Sussex, including social isolation, access to food and cash, transport, digital connectivity, and a loss of communal spaces, amongst others. However the response of the community had been encouraging, with a number of schemes operating to bring communities together, and more people shopping in their local areas and investing in the rural economy. Some of the benefits that it would be important to retain included improvements to the environment and encouraging the hundreds of thousands of people who volunteered to continue to do so.

Cllr Susan Prochak highlighted the problems some organisations had with sharing information, due to data protection laws. Cllr Bob Standley highlighted the work district councils had done to support their communities, provide funding to local businesses, and the need to encourage people back out to their local high streets.

**9) COVID-19 and parish councils**

Trevor Leggo highlighted the good practice of a number of parish councils in response to the pandemic, including councils intending to take on the local Post Office to ensure it continues to provide a service to the community, and a councillor turning his restaurant into a shop to provide food to NHS staff and essential workers. Some of the challenges facing parish councils included the need to conduct meetings virtually, with some authorities who hadn’t held any meetings risking the councillors forfeiting their seats if a meeting isn’t held for six months. The Government hadn’t provided any funding directly to parish councils, causing problems with a number of services, such as public toilets, some district councils were refusing to share funds from Government with parish councils.

**10) Community Risk Overview**

Mark Matthews presented on the Community Risk Overview, and how it was hard to identify community risks, which may be different for different organisations. Cooperative working between organisations was key, and there was still work to do to ensure this was working as well as possible. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service conducted over 10,000 home safety visits and these were being used to assess what type of intervention, if any, would help reduce vulnerability. Alongside new ways of working and responses to COVID-19, it was important that organisations continued to focus on their statutory and core roles.

Cllr Susan Prochak commented on the amazing work done through home safety visits and the telephone calls to shielded people. Dawn Whittaker highlighted the befriending service offered by the Fire Service, which had proved very popular.

**11) Children’s Services update**

Atiya Gourlay discussed the Children and Young People’s Trust (CYPT) partnership event the Children’s Takeover Day. Atiya shared the six priorities of the CYPT, and the shared partnership activities. Atiya also explained the benefits of having youth mental health services integrated into a single point of contact and drew attention to the specialist mental health teams for schools which had been established. One of the priorities of the East Sussex Youth Cabinet was knife crime as the ideas to address this were discussed. The key tips to help young people improve their mental health were highlighted, including adults ensuring they look after their own mental health, and people using the Open for Parents website.

**12) Any other business**

Dawn thanked all of the speakers and asked if there was any other business.

**13) Dates of future meetings**

Monday 23rd November 2020 – East Sussex Annual Assembly – International Lawn Tennis Centre, Eastbourne

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| **SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –** | |
| **Item** | **Action** |
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A copy of all the presentations from the meeting can be found on the ESSP website ([http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports](http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2016)).