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| ESSP new without graphic | **Meeting Notes**  **Monday 8 February 2021**  **Virtual via Microsoft Teams** |

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| **IN ATTENDANCE** |

**ESSP Members present:**

Cllr Bob Standley Wealden District Council

Steve Manwaring HVA/Speakup

Becky Shaw East Sussex County Council

Isabel Garden 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

Keith Stevens ES Association of Local Councils

Graham Peters South East Local Enterprise Partnership

Cllr Keith Glazer East Sussex County Council

Cllr Helen Burton Eastbourne Borough Council

Michael Turner Environment Agency

Cllr Kim Forward Hastings Borough Council

Cllr Susan Prochak Rother District Council

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

Nicola Mitchell Rother District Council

Lewis Williams East Sussex County Council

Cllr Johnny Denis Lewes District Council

Juliet Couche Sussex Partnership

Jane Hartnell Hastings Borough Council

**Apologies for absence**:

Mark Matthews East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

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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 8 July 2020 and matters arising not on the agenda**

The minutes of the meeting on 8 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

**4) Assembly Review**

Dawn Whittaker gave a brief outline of the East Sussex Assembly and described the initial work taking place within East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) to reduce their carbon footprint, which included looking into fuel efficient fire engines and linking up with local universities through the Green Growth Network. Dawn also said that Cllr Roy Galley, the Chairman of the ESFRS, planned to write to the local authorities in the county to discuss how organisations could work together to tackle climate change. Cllr Glazier outlined the work in East Sussex County Council (ESCC), and highlighted the County Council meeting on 09/02/2021, which would include a scrutiny review of work to become a carbon neutral council. Cllr Standley described work taking place in Wealden District Council (WDC), which included the ‘Riding Sunbeams’ project, which would feed solar energy directly into Network Rail; and plans for a new electric vehicle charging station near Uckfield, further information was available on the [WDC website](https://www.wealden.gov.uk/environment-and-pollution/climate-emergency/). Cllr Denis drew attention to the Lewes District Council [Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/climatechange). Cllr Denis also highlighted the limitations with the National Grid, and how storage and distribution of renewable energy would need to be improved. Cllr Burton discussed Eastbourne Borough Council’s efforts to improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock and reduce waste collections to encourage recycling. Cllr Burton also emphasised the importance of working with residents, who could access funding streams not available to local authorities, for example a recent tree planting project in Eastbourne. Graham Peters highlighted the [East Sussex Reset](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/16223/east-sussex-reset-recovery-as-opportunity.pdf) guide, which set out plans for a new lower carbon world. Michael Turner discussed the Environment Agencies Coronavirus Transformation Programme and how they were seeking to limit their emissions from activities such as pumping water and pouring concrete. Keith Stevens asked whether climate change should be listed as one of the main focuses of the partnership on the ESSP website. Dawn Whittaker agreed and suggested the new page could link into the plans for partner organisations.

**ACTIONS:**

**i) Lewis Williams to collate information on climate change and add it to ESSP website**

**5) Budget updates**

Dawn Whittaker introduced the discussion and highlighted the ESFRS budget meeting on 10/02/2021. Cllr Glazier said the ESCC budget would be discussed at the Council meeting on 09/02/2021; and that local authorities needed a multi-year settlement from Government and a long-term social care solution. Cllr Standley agreed on the need for a multi-year funding settlement; WDC were not increasing Council Tax but there was a risk that Government might change the way Business Rates were distributed which would impact all local authorities. Ashley Scarff said the NHS was working on a short-term three-month budget cycle due to COVID-19. This had allowed the NHS to respond and adapt quickly to the changing circumstances but reduced their ability to plan for the future. Cllr Denis said LDC were increasing their Council Tax by £5 but were using their Capital Programme to invest in the local economy. Steve Manwaring outlined the challenges facing the voluntary sector, with a significant amount of their budgets being used on the immediate COVID-19 response and fundraising opportunities limited by the closure of charity shops and other restrictions. Steve also highlighted the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) report on the sector, which was likely to be published in the next few weeks, and suggested this could be a future topic for discussion at an ESSP meeting. Cllr Burton highlighted the increased food poverty levels in the county due to COVID-19; Cllr Denis mentioned the problem of fuel poverty, particularly in rural communities.

**ACTIONS:**

**i) Lewis Williams to discuss the IVAR report with Steve Manwaring**

**6) COVID-19 fatigue and personal resilience**

Juliet Couche outlined how the Sussex Partnership Trust were supporting their staff with their physical and mental health during a period of unprecedented pressure and demand due to COVID-19. The Trust had introduced a PAR framework, to deal with the stages of the pandemic response: Prepare; Active and Recovery. The Trust had seen increased levels of exhaustion, stress, moral injury and thoughts of self-harm or suicide in their staff during the pandemic. Juliet discussed the need for: collective and consistent messaging during the Prepare phase; support for people to meet their basic needs, and the need for peer to peer conversations and anonymised support during the Active phase; and outreach to staff once during the Recovery phase. Juliet also highlighted a number of apps and platforms which could provide support to people, such as Sleepio and headspace. The Traumagroup.org website also provided advice to people on how to support their own wellbeing during the pandemic. Juliet discussed the use of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) to help people who have experienced a traumatic, or potentially traumatic event. Juliet also highlighted the Sussex Staff in Mind programme which went live in January 2021. The programme offered a rapid check-in and assessment service for Sussex NHS and social care staff, and had received 250 referrals in 10 days, which was significantly more than expected. Sussex Partnership had been approached by partner organisations and hoped to expand the service to partners in the future.

Becky Shaw said ESCC had increased the number of Mental Health First Aiders in the council, to support staff. Becky also asked whether social distancing was having an effect on people’s mental health, and whether some staff who had experienced traumatic experiences didn’t recognise this as they were comparing it to the trauma suffered by others. Juliet said there hadn’t been any direct research on the effects of social distancing on people, but increased isolation would have an effect. Juliet also agreed that undervaluing individual trauma was an issue, and many people’s coping strategies had been affected by the pandemic. Juliet also emphasised the need for a ‘watch and wait’ strategy to support staff, as trauma might be hidden until a future trigger.

A number of Members asked about the eligibility for the programme and who was able to access it. Juliet clarified that it was currently only aimed at NHS and social care staff, but once the influx of cases had been dealt with Sussex Partnership would be looking to expand it to a wider audience.

Dawn Whittaker discussed the Sussex Resilience Forum and the Vulnerable Persons Group which had established a befriending service for people who were shielded or social isolated. Dawn also asked for the publicly available information from Juliet’s presentation to be added to the ESSP website. The ESFRS staff survey had identified home schooling as a big challenge for staff, so Dawn highlighted a number of educational resources on the ESFRS website on water safety, road safety and safety for businesses:

[Virtual Safety in Action](https://www.esfrs.org/your-safety/education-intervention/safety-in-action/virtual-safety-in-action/)

[My Safety Book](https://www.esfrs.org/your-safety/kids-zone/my-safety-book/)

[Advice for Businesses](https://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/)

**ACTIONS:**

**i) Lewis Williams to add wellbeing information to the ESSP website**

**7) Any other business**

Dawn thanked Juliet and asked if there was any other business.

**8) Dates of future meetings**

Monday 5th July 2021 10.00am – 12.00pm – ESSP Business Meeting TBC

Friday 26th November 2021 9.00am – 12.00pm – East Sussex Assembly TBC

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| **SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –** | |
| **Item** | **Action** |
| **4** | 1. **Lewis Williams to collate information on climate change and add it to ESSP website** |
| **5** | 1. **Lewis Williams to discuss the IVAR report with Steve Manwaring** |
| **6** | 1. **Lewis Williams to add wellbeing information to the ESSP website** |

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)).