



## Community Partnerships

We connect Health and Social Care stakeholders and the Community and Voluntary sector in partnerships for the benefit of West Sussex residents.

Over the last 15 months Healthwatch West Sussex CIC have targeted reinvestment of all income from Social Enterprise contracts outside of Statutory Healthwatch activities into funding our work to develop Community Partnerships which we believe will help underpin the aspiration of truly Integrated Care Systems - Health, Social Care, Community and Voluntary organisations working together in partnership to support individuals and family and friend carers.

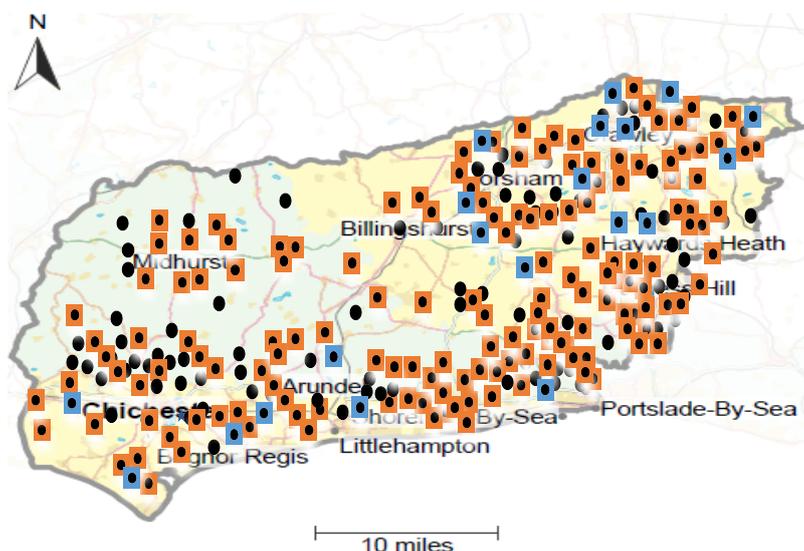
### Size doesn't matter - self-supporting network

Our partnership approach works for all community and voluntary groups and organisations regardless of size and geographical reach. Working together has mutual benefits for the people they work with whether they are referred to as members, patients, clients, the public, carers, family or friends. People trust their established relationships with groups and organisations and don't need to repeat their stories and experiences multiple times. Together, we have been able to raise awareness of services, needs are greater and clearer, access to services is more timely and appropriate and time and resources are saved.



### Supporting Social Prescribing and sharing ideas

Our Community Partnership Coordinator quickly established strong links to the Social Prescribers working from the Rural North Chichester practices. We have been able to link groups, share ideas from different communities that can be replicated and adapted to suit local needs. A large number of [Spotlight case studies](#) have been developed as a result allowing us to share ideas further. Using simple *Community*

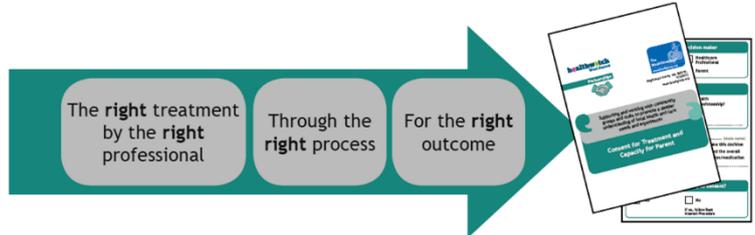


*Chest Fund* of less than £8000 we have been able to seed collaborative projects with grants from £80 - £500. 38 applications have been received to date with 23 awards made. Every project has grown and developed and resulted in ongoing partnerships both formal and informal. We have encouraged groups who have used initial connections from these projects or events to then build their own future initiatives which we are delighted to see happening. In return we have been able to hear even more insight which we can share with health and social care stakeholders to help shape future provision to have a greater impact. Many other projects have started without funding, they have just needed some mentoring and network contacts.



## Example 1 - The Disability Trust Partnership - Innovation for improved outcomes

Healthwatch Community Partnerships worked with the Disabilities Trust to develop a [Best Interest Decision Making toolkit](#) for use by Health and Social Care professionals working with vulnerable people who lack capacity to make their own decisions about medical care or who are at risk when needing medication or surgical procedures. The toolkit has been made free to anyone to use and is now being shared as best practice by Healthwatch England.



The toolkit includes:

- Consent to treatment introduction
- Care professionals document
- Doctor document
- Interested parties document
- Parent document
- Social Worker document
- Easy read version for service user

**healthwatch**  
West Sussex

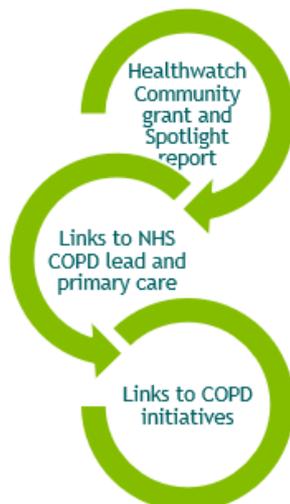


Registered charity No: 800797,  
SC038972  
[www.thedtgroup.org](http://www.thedtgroup.org)

**Consent to treatment  
Tools for Best Interest Decision Making**

## Example 2 - COPD Support Group East Grinstead - Making connections

- Links forged as part of Community Fund grant



- Positive outcomes for people living with COPD who attend the support group



In our first year we are actively working with over 150 organisations across West Sussex providing a diverse range of ideas. We are able to connect groups and organisations to each other for the benefit of residents Health and Wellbeing.

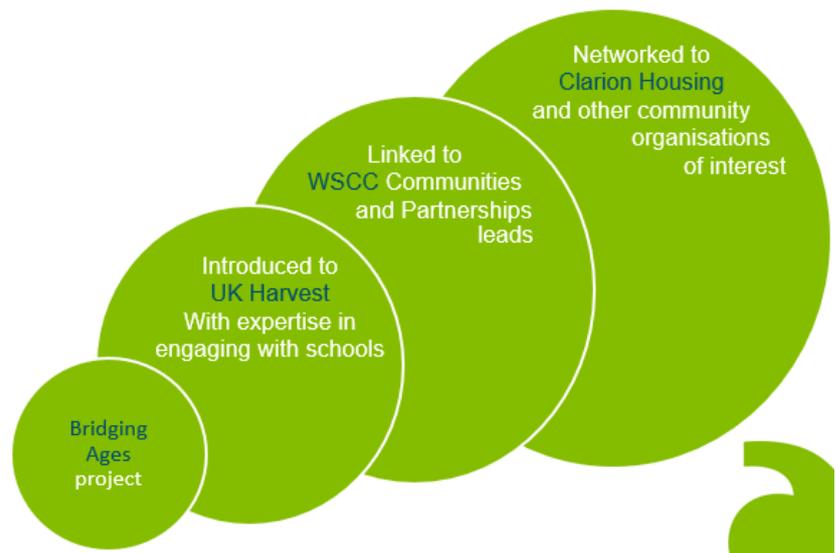
Community connections have enabled us to plan and host events in a matter of weeks for example a Community Event at the new Bridge Leisure Centre in

Broadbridge Heath included 15 statutory and community organisations together reaching over 300 people with no direct costs. Through working closer with local communities we are hear early warnings of issues which we are then able raise and help address before they escalate. A current example is the impact of the closure of Boots Chemists in Bentwood.



## Example - 3 organisations sharing knowledge and increases impact

Bridging Ages is a tiny grass roots community project which we partnered with UK Harvest, WSCC Community Leads and Clarion Housing Association. As a result the impact of the work has dramatically increased and supported individuals, families, carers and communities. We have been able to work with Social Prescribers and GP practices.



## The future - supporting the Long Term Plan and Primary Care Networks

Our 2019/20 workplan for community partnerships has been able to continue thanks to match funding from WSCC Communities Team. This will mean we can:

- Continue to nurture community contacts and health and social care stakeholders to widen the network and partnership resource pool
- Extend links to social prescribing as the model roles out more widely across the county.
- Support and shine a light on Integrated Care System developments such as the Community Hub proposals being worked on for the Rural North Chichester PCN.
- Continue to target links with “seldom heard” communities including ethnic groups, young people, dementia groups, food banks, homeless
- Raise awareness through media articles, and innovate with new ways of partnership working
- Ensure that opportunities for Communities in Action grows in West Sussex. This will widen our voice, increase awareness and broaden our insight.
- Continue to work with condition specific community and voluntary groups and the corresponding system stakeholders to share insight and increase impact.

**Further information** You can find more details about our Community Partnership work:

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For more information about our work and how this makes a difference visit our website or follow us on social media

[www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk)

