



## Welcome to the second Supporting Lives, Connecting People (SLCP) newsletter July 2019

This newsletter keeps you up-to-date on developments with the implementation of our new way of delivering adult social care in West Sussex. It will be available, along with previous issues in the ['Professional Zone'](#) of the [West Sussex Connect to Support](#) website.

We firstly just want to update you that Avril Mayhew, who has been the Improvement Lead for SLCP since autumn 2018, completed her secondment from the Local Government Association on 5 July. We have thanked Avril for all her hard work and commitment and acknowledged the progress we have made together on our Community Led Support journey under her leadership.

Avril has asked that we pass on the following message from her – “I have very much enjoyed my time in West Sussex working with such dedicated and welcoming colleagues. I do hope our paths cross again in the not too distant future”.

We are appointing to Avril's post and we will confirm who will be assuming her responsibilities as soon as possible.

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### Focus on... strengths-based approach

In each issue we will be focusing on a specific aspect of SLCP to provide you with more information. In this issue we are looking at strengths-based working.

A strengths-based approach is focussed on working with a person to identify their strengths, sometimes referred to as 'assets'. These can include a person's skills, creativity and abilities and also their social and community networks.

Once these have been identified, a set of outcomes are agreed with the person. The goal of the approach is to help the person maximise their strengths to enable them to achieve their outcomes, meet their needs and improve or maintain their wellbeing.

### Strengths-based approach/practice is...

- An approach 'how to carry out interventions'
- Holistic and multidisciplinary
- Collaborative
- Proportionate
- Appropriate to the individual circumstances = flexible
- Aligned with risk enablement and positive risk taking
- A focus on 'what matters to you' and what is strong'
- Identifying personal, family and community strengths and support the individual in linking with them
- Supporting community development
- Applicable to any intervention, setting, type or level of need and profession.

The Care Act 2014 requires us to 'consider the person's own strengths and capabilities, and what support might be available from their wider support network or within the community to help' in considering 'what else other than the provision of care and support might assist the person in meeting the outcomes they want to achieve'.

### Strengths-based approach/practice is NOT...

- An outcome.
- About reduction of packages
- About signposting and providing less support
- About not helping
- A focus on 'what is the matter with you' and 'what is wrong'
- About shifting responsibilities to carers and family/friends
- One size fits all (no scripts)
- About avoiding talking about the problem or issues

You can find out more including helpful case studies in the Department of Health's [Strengths-based approach practice framework and practice handbook](#).

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## Progress and activities

### Spotlight on Chichester and Bognor areas

Progress continues with the implementation of SLCP following the April 'Go Live' date. Before we move on to phase two we have agreed to spend some time over the next few weeks reviewing and consolidating the work to date. As well as reflecting on the progress and learning we will also be continuing to identify potential Talk Local venues.

### Spotlight on Mid Sussex, Crawley and Horsham

We are continuing to plan training sessions and workshops for staff and stakeholders. We will keep you updated on dates for 'Go Live'.



There have been some great examples of local good practice and networking. On 30 May the Crawley Independent Living Team hosted a fundraising bake sale to promote SLCP. They invited a wide variety of colleagues and partner organisations. This provided a great opportunity to build closer working relationships, eat some cake and raise money for the local charity 'Giving Back Crawley'.

### Spotlight on Littlehampton, Adur and Worthing areas

Stakeholder design workshops will be scheduled in preparation for 'Go Live', later in the year. We will keep you updated on dates for these workshops.

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## Launch of the Adult Social Care Vision and Strategy 2019-21



Two launch events for the Adult Social Care [Vision and Strategy 2019-21](#) were held in June. Around 100 stakeholders attended these interactive sessions to find out more about the vision for Adults' Services, our key priorities and new ways of working, including SLCP.

### Working together

The events also provided attendees with the opportunity to share their views on our proposed approach to working together in co-production to help guide our work. Working together with people with social care support needs, family and friend carers and stakeholders will be at the heart of realising our ambitious vision and we will be considering all the feedback from the events to help inform our final proposals. These will be shared with event attendees and our key stakeholders in the coming weeks.

If you would like more information about the launch events, including copies of the presentations, or would like to find out more about our co-production approach, please contact James on 033022 22534 or via email at [james.ironside@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:james.ironside@westsussex.gov.uk).