



Supporting lives, connecting people

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third Supporting Lives, Connecting People (SLCP) newsletter to keep you up-to-date on developments with the implementation of our new way of delivering adult social care in West Sussex. This newsletter will be available along with previous issues on the [West Sussex Connect to Support](#) website.



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Spotlight on Chichester and Bognor areas

Progress continues following the April Go Live with ongoing work to identify further Talk Local venues and a series of National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) led reflection and learning workshops for staff taking place in mid-November.

Please note that the Talk Local sessions at The Chestnuts Day Centre, Bognor Regis, have been paused while the centre is closed for refurbishment. However, we are pleased that a new venue at the Age UK West Sussex Laburnum Centre is starting shortly to fill this gap.

Spotlight on Mid-Sussex, Crawley and Horsham areas

The Go Live of SLCP for this locality took place as planned the week beginning 28 October. Just one day later the first conversations with customers in a Talk Local venue (based at Crawley Library) took place. Prevention Assessment Team (PAT) staff were on hand to have conversations with customers at these pre-booked sessions and we are particularly encouraged by the feedback from people which was very positive. Slots are available to people every Tuesday with PAT and Occupational Therapy staff based on site and social work colleagues available if required.



Further venues are being set up ready to welcome people from December onwards in Horsham, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and East Grinstead (more details coming

soon). Colleagues from the Council's Partnerships and Communities team are supporting the work to set up complementary 'community drop-in' sessions where people can access preventive information and advice from PAT and voluntary and community sector workers. These will be taking place in a range of community venues across the county and where possible co-located with the Talk Local sessions. We will be engaging with stakeholders to gather views on the development of the 'drop-in' sessions. If you have any ideas or suggestions for these sessions please contact us at Communities@westsussex.gov.uk.

Spotlight on Littlehampton, Adur and Worthing areas

The phase three Go Live of SLCP will take place in this locality in February 2020. Implementation Groups are in the process of being set up and staff training will be starting shortly. More details to follow as the planning and preparation develops.

Despite being in phase three of the rollout of SLCP, we were pleased that a considerable number of staff from this locality were involved when more than 50 Council, health and voluntary and community sector colleagues came together on 30 October for a county-wide workshop to explore and develop the key role of the PAT teams in SLCP, in particular their role in supporting the Talk Local booked appointments and 'community drop-in' sessions. This was an event packed with great ideas and all those in attendance made a commitment to: build on existing good practice; be creative/innovative; and to be unconstrained by current processes. We look forward to all working together to fully develop these ideas.

Focus on... people's experiences so far

In each issue we will be focusing on a specific aspect of SLCP to provide you with further insights. In this issue we are looking at people's experiences so far of the strengths-based approaches that focus on individuals' strengths (including personal strengths and social and community networks).

Graham Inns from Fernhurst, (pictured) has used the Talk Locals.

He said: "It really worked well for me. I didn't sit on a waiting list, it was a much more relaxed way of doing things. I am really impressed with the way everything went".

"My experience has been a positive one. I have already recommended it to other people."



Emmy Birch, his social worker, said "We get involved earlier so it's a preventative approach. People can have a fear that social workers are going to send people into care. We actually want to support people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible".

"The other huge benefit of Talk Locals is the joint working between Occupational Therapists and Social Workers. Working jointly, face to face speeds everything up and makes it much quicker to get the other professional involved. From a practical aspect,

the support of liaising with health and our OT colleagues leads to a smoother referral and joint working process.”

In terms of how her practice had changed, she felt that under this new approach she was “asking more open ended/motivational interviewing type questions which enable people to feel more in control of things that may be working well in their lives and to think carefully about the things that they may require some support with. The approach also enables people to lead and take part in their own support planning”.

Occupational Therapist Kate Morley has also been involved. She said: “For some people having us come into their homes is quite intrusive. This is a completely different way of doing things...customers who have been seen at a Talk Local have stated that they really appreciate the opportunity to trial a range of equipment there so they can see what may be available for them at home”.

Please see the full article in [Octobers Connections magazine](#) and remember that you can find out more including helpful case studies in the Department of Health’s [Strengths-based approach practice framework and practice handbook](#).

We would welcome hearing any ideas or suggestions that you have, so please email us at: supportinglives.connectingpeople@westsussex.gov.uk.