

Community Solutions Consortium

2020-2021



Welcome...

Community Solutions Consortium is a group of eight voluntary sector health and social care providers and influencers operating in West Sussex. We believe that by working together we can each have a greater impact than we could alone.

The consortium is made up of eight well known, recognisable, connected organisations who provide on the ground support for people across West Sussex. We are: **Aldingbourne Trust, Age UK West Sussex & Brighton & Hove, 4Sight Vision Support, Independent Lives, Healthwatch West Sussex, Citizens Advice West Sussex, West Sussex Mind, Carers Support West Sussex.**

We specialise in working with older people, disabled people, people with learning disabilities, people with sensory impairments, people with mental health issues and family, friends, and carers.



120,000

Together we have reached more than **120,000 people** across West Sussex.



£18 million

Our combined spend during 2020–21 was more than **£18 million**.



500,000

Together we provided more than **half a million interventions**.



800

Between us we employed more than **800 staff** across a wide range of roles.



1,300

More than **1,300 volunteers** helped us in our work.



74%

74% of our spending came from statutory sources.

Our response to Covid-19

Consortium members all responded to the COVID-19 pandemic quickly and effectively, continuing to provide essential services despite the many challenges and evolving environment.

We utilised existing resources and embraced new technologies to ensure peoples continued wellbeing, for example, by establishing meal delivery services, or by providing support via video messaging platforms.

Resource management

Citizens Advice West Sussex adapted to focus resources on supporting vulnerable people, providing over 1,000 welfare calls and registering shielding people with hubs.

They delivered a winter hardship scheme across the county, providing over £200,000 of support to vulnerable families and individuals.

Independent Lives supported 568 employers to obtain emergency PPE and arranged vaccinations for more than 300 personal care assistants.

Counselling for young people

West Sussex Mind worked in partnership with Big Lottery Community Fund and Worthing Counselling Centre to provide free counselling for 16–25 year olds affected by the pandemic.

Increased demand

Age UK West Sussex saw an increase in clients contacting at the start of the pandemic by 250%.

Grassroots understanding

Healthwatch West Sussex worked to capture the community voice and better understand the challenges being presented by the pandemic at a grassroots level.

Digital Champions

Carers Support West Sussex supported carers to connect digitally and socially, reducing feeling of isolation and loneliness.

Over £13,000 was allocated to providing laptops and tablets to more than 85 carers. Carers were also supported through a network of volunteer Digital Champions.

Innovation

We are looking at ways to improve access to support and services. By doing things differently we believe that we can raise standards across the social care and health sector.

All members of the consortium embraced technologies and digital tools to continue and improve the services we deliver throughout the pandemic. From remote working tools to digital groups and meetings. Our collective culture of innovation was allowed to shine throughout the pandemic.

Collaboration

We believe that we work better when working together. Collaborative working and thinking is at the heart of the Community Solutions Consortium.

All members of the consortium worked together and with others to achieve better outcomes for the people we support.

