

Meeting	Communities Partnership (working title)
Location	Teams
Date	Thursday 26 February, 2pm
Time	2pm-3.30pm
Organiser	Melissa Fletcher, Town Centre and Communities Manager

Attendees:

Calum Drummond	Winchester City Council
Cllr Caroline Horrill	Winchester City Council - Wonston & Micheldever ward
Daniel Barrass	Cardo
Juanita D Souza	Playhouse
Anne Weir	Teg Down Nature group
Jane Chuhan	Winchester City Council
Julia Karabut	Winchester City Council
Deb Whorton	Barnaby's Cafe
Sam Watts	Winchester Food Partnership
Michaela Knowles	Winchester City Council
Peter Brown	Winnall Rock School
Sam Lee	Winchester City Council
Jo Elliott	Winchester City Council
Katy Seymour	Winchester Youth Counselling
Tracey McGivern	Winchester City Council
Louise Walton	Citizens Advice Winchester District
Sue Foster	JCP Disability Employment Adviser
James Batho	Winchester City Council – St Barnabas ward
Debbie Harding	Twyford Parish Council
Tim Houghton	Community First

Key minutes of the meeting:

- Highlighted and reviewed elements of the December minutes: which included other partnerships, aspects of a partnership people value most, topics people were interested in and suggestions going forward
- Having reflected on the different partnerships that people attend, which were detailed in the slido of the previous meeting and it is clear that the other partnership is perhaps sector / subject specific. The idea of a partnership of bringing community organisations together, who are focusing on providing valuable support to our residents on a more generic level and to provide a space to network, to share information and to highlight opportunities for collaboration etc seems to be what could be needed in this space as we move forward
- The most valuable aspects people were interested in was collaboration and sharing – which is at the heart of the work the communities team does. We also heard this message loud and clear when the strategy consultations took place last year.
- From the previous slido submissions, the themes that people were interested in was employment – which we are going to touch on a little bit with our Ukraine work and mental health which is something that we can explore perhaps at our in-person meeting

- Sharing best practice was another subject that people were interested in, if anyone would like to step forward at a future meeting with an example of this please contact Melissa
- Focus themes each quarter – suggested mental health for next meeting in conjunction with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) data to review data in line with the areas of need which are detailed in the health priorities statement
- Cllr James Batho highlighted a potential need for a youth focused group, Cllr Batho to follow up with Tim Houghton re: LCP
- Cllr Horrill asked if consideration could be made to a district wide support group
- Youth Options are looking to reinstate the Youth Collective group
- Point of reference for local voice: [Hampshire Youth Parliament | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)
- Sue Foster Disability employment - Youth employment coach and supporting those 18-24 disengaged youth can provide some information/support to the youth forum
- Winnall Rock school highlighted the - Arc on statuary – wellbeing event Sound musical event week on Saturday 7 March [Sound Winchester 2026 | Winchester, Hampshire, UK](#)
- Citizens Advice: [Partnerships - Citizens Advice Winchester District](#)
[Citizens Advice Winchester District - We are here to help](#)
- Youth Counselling: [Events from March 7, 2023 – November 7, 2023 › Parents › » Winchester Youth Counselling](#)
- The Playhouse Foundation shared details of their offer: Parent Support Programmes are individual online sessions designed for parents of young children with autism, and certified therapists offer practical approaches and strategies to support their child's needs and wellbeing. Applications have just opened for a new cohort of families, and bursaries are available. Further information please contact: Please contact victoria@theplayhousefoundation.org.uk

Suggestions/comments from the group chat:

- One of the difficulties we find as a small community group is the cost of using community buildings for informal group meetings - this has driven us towards pubs which can be a barrier for some in our community
- Let's learn the lessons from Winchester Youth Collective and BeWYSE not taking off as we had hoped.

Winchester City Council updates on themed topics (taken from the previous meetings slido):

Targeted community work – Calum Drummond

The Live Longer Better programme is a central part of the Council's Healthy People priority, created in response to JSNA findings on ageing, dementia, social isolation, and rural health inequalities. The programme aims to help older adults become and stay physically active. Current delivery includes:

- Low-level exercise classes at:
 - Carroll Centre (Monday)
 - Chesil Lodge (Thursday)
 - Weeke Community Centre (Friday)
 - Wickham Community Centre (Friday)

- Sessions now running in 4 care homes and 5 sheltered housing schemes
- Over 150 older adults engaged so far

The Council has also produced a new Health Priorities Statement, using Hampshire's JSNA to guide targeted, data-led health improvement work. This ensures resources focus on communities with the greatest need, including Stanmore, Winnall, and rural parishes with ageing populations.

A new tai-chi programme is being launched in partnership with Friarsgate Practice and Hampshire County Council, with planned sessions in Winnall or Stanmore and at WSLP. Tai-chi has strong evidence for lowering high blood pressure.

Finally, the Health Inequalities Subgroup has met recently, and anyone focusing on health and wellbeing is invited to get in touch.

Targeted community work & Collaboration/sharing: Jane Chuhan

Stanmore network

- Started couple of years ago with funding we received from UKSPF
- Did some data gathering on what information already existed - resident surveys, health data, census data, demographics. Also, what groups were working in Stanmore and what was already happening locally, what needs were.
- Then formed network of orgs working in Stanmore, including voluntary orgs and charities, local schools, care homes, police, health partners,
- Network meets few times per year to exchange information - now looking at how we can collaborate better and investigating digital tools that could help us.
- If you are working in Stanmore and not a part of this, or would like to reach out/work with people in Stanmore, please get in touch with JChuhan@winchester.gov.uk - we'd love you to join the network.

Community Buildings Support

Community buildings— village halls, community centres, churches, and sports facilities—play a huge role in creating healthy, resilient, and connected communities. They help strengthen social connection by providing space where people can come together (clubs and groups to meet), can offer support and services (food pantries, drop-ins), opportunity for volunteering, place to share information and strengthen community resilience.

There are approximately 130 facilities across Winchester district. All operate differently, some as independent charities or CICs, others part of parish council or management committees.

The council has started a Community Buildings Forum. First meeting was in Wickham in Jan – about 25 buildings represented. Talks from Action Hampshire and WinACC, also WCC on funding and other support. We collected information on what support people need - health safety and security were top of the list so AH will be delivering an online training on this for us in March. Also exchanged building strengths and what help was needed so buildings can help support each other.

If community building and want to make sure receive updates from us on this contact JChuhan@winchester.gov.uk.

Community integration/engagement & Employment support: Ukraine – Julia Karabut

We continue to provide wellbeing support for Ukrainian community – for adults and teenagers and young people.

Visa hub support in conjunction with Citizens Advice, general advice, including through community coffee drop ins.

We have also been supporting the Winchester Ukrainian Cultural Association. Contact details: wuca.office@gmail.com

Homes For Ukraine Employment support:

We are offering employment support to our Ukrainian guests to improve employment opportunities. This includes:

- Face to face appointments
- Online appointments
- Wellbeing
- Personal Development
- Information and tips for writing a CV
- How to search for jobs in the UK
- Preparing for an interview
- Qualification comparability
- Business Start-up assistance

We have created an employment support guide. We are providing mock interviews.

We are signposting to Skills bootcamps and courses with HCC
Run few sessions on using LinkedIn and online job searching

For further information on the support available to Ukrainian community on our webpage [Support for Ukraine - Winchester City Council](#)

For information:

- The Thriving and Resilient Communities strategy is tabled at cabinet in March - [Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 12th March, 2026, 9.30 am - Winchester City Council](#) item no 10
- Communities Newsletter: [Newsletter for community organisations](#) – do sign up if you haven't already

Next steps:

Further consideration by MF to be given around creating a team's channel for direct communication during the time in between meetings

Next meeting:

- July – in person (subject to budget)
- Initial idea to focus on Mental Health and the Health priorities statement [Winchester Health Priorities - Winchester City Council](#)