

Meeting	Communities Inclusion & Networking Partnership
Location	Riverpark Pavillion
Date	Wednesday 8 July
Time	2pm-5pm
Organiser	Melissa Fletcher, Town Centre and Communities Manager

Attendees

Calum Drummond	Winchester City Council
Jane Chuhan	Winchester City Council
Emily Haywood Smith	Move Momentum
Ginny Allain	St Peter's Sanctuary Welcome Hub
James Batho	Councillor for St Barnabas Ward
Jess Hatt	Youth Options
Jo Brook	Itchen College
Michaela Knowles	Winchester City Council
Natasha Charlton	Citizens Advice
Nickey Turner	Winchester Food Partnership
Peter Brown	Winnall Rock School
Roxy	Mills
Sian Griffiths	Friarsgate Practice
Stella Thurston	Winchester City Council
Timea Cheeseman	Carroll Centre
Vivian Achwal	Councillor for Whiteley & Sheffield
Yuliia Dubovyk	Winchester Ukrainian Cultural Association
Kelly Smith	Vivid Homes
Sue Foster	DWP
Becky Hawkes	Itchen College

Apologies

Lili Boyanova Hugh	The Solent Restorative Partnership
Rosie Beazley	Winchester City Council
Alison Dolphin	Renew wellbeing leader and lead chaplain for Winchester City
Amanda Watkinson	Move Momentum
Lesley Sheldon-Browning	St Peter's Sanctuary Welcome Hub

Summary of Actions

1. Share Health Priorities document	Winchester Health Priorities - Winchester City Council
2. Circulate workplace mental wellbeing guide	Jack Tomkinson
3. Explore options for a shared communication platform for the partnership	Winchester City Council Communities Team
4. Consider community wellbeing fair/information event	Communities Inclusion and Networking Partnership group to consider at future meeting

5. WYC to share presentation slides.	Attached to these minutes
6. Share Hampshire wellbeing and suicide prevention offers with councillors	Winchester City Council Communities Team
7. Share Hampshire Youth Conference information	Winchester City Council Communities Team
8. Strengthen links between businesses and charities	Communities Inclusion and Networking Partnership group to consider at future meeting

Key minutes of the meeting:

- Melissa Fletcher kicked off the meeting with introductions and setting the scene in terms of mental health and the correlation to the Community strategy data that highlights Mental Health and Wellbeing as an area of need. In particular, the evidence suggests that the mental health of young people has emerged as a concern. The evidence also shows that there are elevated self-harm rates in urban wards including St Michael, St Paul, and St Bartholomew
- Presentation: [Winchester Youth Counselling](#), Charlotte Andrews and Lucy Clarke
- This presentation generated a lot of conversation around waiting times for support, the upper age limit, the way the support service can be offered and how Youth Counselling can interact with other services, the fact that this is support service it is not designed to fix everything, a selection of support maybe needed to assist young people.
- Slides from Jack Tomkinson, HCC, Public Health Practitioner, Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Reduction. Mental wellbeing is everyone's business. Whether we're supporting colleagues, volunteers, customers, residents, or members of the public, having the confidence to recognise when someone may be struggling and knowing where to signpost them can make a significant difference. Across Hampshire there is a strong range of free, accessible mental wellbeing and suicide prevention resources. By increasing awareness, building confidence, and encouraging early conversations, we can help create healthier communities and ensure people receive support before they reach crisis point.
- Presentation: Jane Chuhan, Winchester City Council, Community Engagement Officer
- Presentation: Calum Drummond, Winchester City Council, Health Improvement Manager
- A pdf of the presentation deck will accompany the minutes

Interactive session

1. Where do you currently get information about local mental health support?

Participants reported primarily using Google searches, Connect4Communities, Hampshire County Council's Community Information Directory, community centres, local organisations, and personal or professional networks to identify mental health support services.

Several challenges were highlighted, including the fact that existing directories do not always capture smaller local groups, information is often fragmented and difficult to navigate, and many residents remain unaware of the support available to them.

To address these issues, attendees suggested developing a local Mental Health Pathway Map or visual directory. This would clearly outline available services, the support each service provides, and appropriate referral and signposting routes.

It was also noted that no attendees reported using the Winchester City Council website to access information about mental health support services.

2. How confident are you in signposting people to support?

Participants generally felt confident in their ability to signpost individuals to appropriate support services. However, several challenges were identified, including the volume of available information, which can make it difficult to determine the most suitable support. Attendees also noted that simply sharing links can feel impersonal and ineffective, with limited visibility of whether information has been received, understood, or acted upon. It was recognised that each person's wellbeing journey is unique and may require a tailored approach.

Participants highlighted the importance of managing expectations by clearly communicating likely waiting times and outlining next steps in the support process.

3. What examples do you have of effective partnership working

Participants highlighted that effective partnership working relies on strong relationships, collaborative networks, and personalised support. Warm handovers between organisations were identified as a key example of good practice, enabling individuals to access services more successfully than through signposting alone.

Existing partnerships, including youth engagement networks and the Winchester Older Persons Partnership, were recognised for bringing organisations together to share information, coordinate support, and promote mental health and wellbeing. Participants also noted the importance of partnership approaches that provide tailored support, address barriers such as language and social isolation, and create opportunities for social connection within communities.

4. Where are the gaps or disconnects?

Participants identified gaps in both service access and communication. While support services exist, many individuals face barriers to engaging with them independently due to low confidence, social anxiety, isolation, and the reduction in befriending services since COVID-19.

A lack of awareness and information-sharing was also highlighted, with some organisations unaware of the event and local support opportunities. This can limit effective collaboration, referrals, and signposting.

To address these issues, participants suggested strengthening befriending and volunteer-led support, improving communication through shared networks and contact directories, and increasing partnership and community networking opportunities to raise awareness of available services and improve collaboration across organisations.

For information:

- Communities Newsletter: [Newsletter for community organisations](#) – do sign up if you haven't already

5. What would make collaboration easier?

Participants identified a need for stronger communication, networking, and information-sharing between organisations. Suggestions included creating a shared communication platform, a central contact directory, and a dedicated Teams channel to help partners connect more easily and coordinate support. Attendees also highlighted the value of increased face-to-face networking opportunities, including regular partnership events, coffee mornings, and wider promotion of existing partnership meetings and networks.

Existing networks such as the Older Persons Partnership, Community First networks, and the Hampshire Dementia Alliance were recognised as valuable forums that could be better utilised and promoted to strengthen collaboration.

Participants also highlighted opportunities to improve collaboration through greater engagement with local businesses. Suggestions included creating networking opportunities between businesses and community organisations, encouraging fundraising partnerships, corporate volunteering, and skills-based volunteering, as well as exploring in-kind support such as equipment, meeting spaces, and volunteer time. A business expo was proposed as a way of connecting organisations with potential partners and supporters.

AOB

Information on hiring The Pavilion, River Park: [Winchester City Council Venue Hire - Winchester City Council](#)

Date of next meeting: November – in person if feasible

The comment was made and supported by other members of the partnership that in person is a much better way to connect and interact with other community members

Focus to be one of these topics:

- Healthy living
- Rural poverty and loneliness
- Community integration / engagement
- Access to community spaces