

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE – 6 OCT 2022
SUBJECT:	AGING WELL IN ARUN – AGE UK WEST SUSSEX BRIGHTON & HOVE UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER:	ROBIN WICKHAM, GROUP HEAD OF WELLBEING & COMMUNITIES
LEAD MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR JACKY PENDLETON
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF ARUN: Develop and implement a Wellbeing Strategy to plan services, resources, amenities, activities, and places to help our community thrive.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: Arun District Council will develop a Wellbeing Strategy. Age UK WSBH West Sussex Brighton & Hove is considered a key partner to support older people to be active, fulfilled, and independent later in life.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: A grant of £50,000 was approved to support activities for older people in Arun. Future funding is subject to reviews by the Housing and Wellbeing Committee.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To review the work of Age UK West Sussex Brighton & Hove to enhance opportunities for older people to engage in physical and social activities in the Arun district.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Housing and Wellbeing Committee:

- 1.2. Continue to grant fund Age UK West Sussex Brighton & Hove £50,000 from existing budgets in 2023/24 to support activities for older people in the Arun district.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. On 24 January 2022 the Housing and Wellbeing Committee approved a grant of £50,000 to Age UK West Sussex Brighton and Hove to support older people's activities. This report is to provide an update on the use of the grant and seeks continued funding in 2023/24.

3. DETAIL

3.1. Age UK WSBH West Sussex, Brighton & Hove (Age UK WSBH) plays an important role in improving the quality of life for older people in Arun, particularly those who may be socially isolated or have long term caring responsibilities. Historically, Age UK WSBH has operated the Laburnum Centre in Bognor Regis and provided a range of building-based activities in Littlehampton and other locations east of the river Arun. The Council has a formal working relationship with Age UK WSBH that dates to 2006.

3.2. In January 2022, this Committee approved a grant of £50,000 to support Age UK WSBH's work to enhance the local offer for older people. The proposal is detailed in Appendix 1. In consideration of this grant the Committee wished to receive an update in 2022/23.

3.3. A written update is provided by Age UK WSBH in Appendix 2.

4. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

4.1. None. This is an update report requested by the Committee.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1. None.

6. COMMENT OF THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/S151 OFFICER

7.1 A sum of £50,000 will be allocated from the 2023/24 budget if Committee approve ongoing support to the 'Aging Well in Arun' project.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1. None.

8. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

8.1. A Service Level Agreement has been drafted for this grant. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

9.1. None

10. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

10.1. None

11. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

11.1. None

12. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

12.1. Arun district has a large elderly population. The work of Age UK WSBH is to support the wellbeing of all people from the age of fifty years to live healthy independent lives.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

13.1. None

14. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

14.1. None

15. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

15.1. None

16. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

16.1. None.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Robin Wickham

Job Title: Group Head of Wellbeing and Communities

Contact Number: 01903 737835

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Appendix 1 Age UK WSBH West Sussex, Brighton & Hove Funding Proposal

Appendix 2 Age UK WSBH West Sussex, Brighton & Hove Update Report

Background

Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove is the leading older people's charity in the region and we are proud to have been working with you in Arun for over 20 years. Our main hub is the Laburnum Centre in Bognor Regis, but our approach is district-wide across Arun. Thank you for your generous funding in 2022/23 that has enabled us to sustain our work in this local area.

How we are using the funding

Since April 2022, we have helped 650 older people through 70 different clubs, classes, social and physical activities at the Laburnum Centre and in the community. 80% of these people live in the areas we identified as a priority in our original bid.

In addition, we have supported at least another 400 older people in Arun through our dementia clubs, information & advice service, hospital and help at home services.

The funding from this grant has contributed to the salaries of the Development Manager and the Locality Coordinator, whose roles are to develop and support the administration of these activities and services and to map the current provision, identifying where gaps may be.

At the beginning of the period, Littlehampton United Church was one of our outreach hubs and we delivered a range of social and physical activities. After careful consideration and financial review, we made the decision to change the way that we work in that area. We weren't covering the rent through the activities income and our local mapping and knowledge identified that there is a substantial amount of provision for older people in the immediate area. We supported people to attend these other activities and are setting up new ones where the activity doesn't exist and there is demand for it.

We continue to offer Walking Football in Arundel and also delivered classes in Middleton in this period. We are developing more activities in other areas of Arun.

We receive funding from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) to deliver a social isolation contract and part of this funds a Community Agent – a specialist loneliness social prescriber who works across Arun to link people to activities of interest/need to them. The Development Manager line-manages this post and together they have been looking at potential new areas to develop new services for older people. The cost of living is already cited as a reason people are not getting out and about.

Working together

Partnership is key to us. We have formal relationships with Community Transport Sussex, Royal Voluntary Service and West Sussex Mind as a part of our WSSCC contract, with each bringing a specialism that supports older people.

We want people in Arun to age well. In this period, with Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester (VAAC), the Development Manager set up the Arun District Older Person's Network – a group for professionals to collaborate, share information, best practice and suggestions on making Arun the best place to age well. The meeting was really well attended and there are increased relationships, partnerships and opportunities as a result. VAAC and Age UK WSBH have since submitted two joint funding applications, one of which has been successful.

At the Laburnum Centre we are setting up an Arun District Older People's Forum. The aim of this forum is to hear, listen and support older people to have their voice heard in making change. This will be an independent group, with support from us.

Like many Charities, we have had challenges in raising money and recruiting staff in Arun in this period – the cost of living impacting us as an organisation, as well as our employees. Recruitment of good Instructors is really challenging and a fall out from COVID when many went on to do other things.

Over this period we have also been meeting regularly with the Arun Communities & Wellbeing Team and other key third sector partners of the Council. We have recently taken on a Falls Prevention project. Most latterly, we have all been discussing the Cost-

of-Living Emergency and what this means for older people. One example is that we can use the Laburnum Centre as a warm space – it's currently less busy in the afternoons and would welcome anyone, from any age, to make use of this provision. We will also be offering information and advice sessions in Arun to ensure older people are receiving all the financial support available to them. We are closely connecting with West Sussex Fire Service and signposting each other to our services, thus preventing not only death by fire, but also loneliness. We are extremely worried about the mental health of older people and are working closely with WS Mind to prioritise the alleviation of this.

This Winter is one that we are fearing for older people and we are doing all that we can to put measures, advice and support in place for older people living across Arun District, which will continue to be physical and social activities around Arun, as well as a warm place to sit, eat and be with others.

As Councillors, we also urge you to signpost older people to us.

Thank you again for your generous support.