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for a better future

## Mid Sussex Strategic Intelligence Assessment

July 2023



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## Background and Context

The Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP) is a partnership of organisations working together to improve the quality of residents' lives across the District.

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) is an annual evidence-based document, compiled and analysed to inform the priorities of the MSP.

The partnership has a statutory duty to work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the District. The SIA aids understanding of emerging trends and patterns in crime and disorder and explores future threats and opportunities. It also provides an insight into health-related information relevant to the partnership's role as the local Wellbeing Partnership in improving the Health and Wellbeing of the District. The Health Subgroup has now been officially recognised by the West Sussex Health and Care Partnership Executive and NHS Integrated Care System (ICS) as the Local Community Network (LCN) for Mid Sussex. In West Sussex, the LCNs now form the ground level building blocks to enable health-related partnership activity.

Data contained in this document is primarily for the calendar year 2022 including recently published data from the 2021 census. The Council is also part of an arrangement with West Sussex County Council for the employment of a Data Analyst to produce SIAs for the Safer West Sussex Partnership and the County's District and Borough Councils. The crime data is included in this update of the SIA.

## The Mid Sussex Partnership and Subgroups

The structure and Terms of Reference of the MSP are reviewed annually, with the review in 2020 establishing three Subgroups of Community Safety, Health (LCN) and Community Resilience reporting into the MSP Board.

The priority themes for 2022-23 for the subgroups were:

- **Community Resilience:** Sustainable food partnerships and food banks; Support for community transport; Addressing Digital exclusion and support for digital champions; Encourage volunteers in the context of numbers no longer available following the pandemic.
- **Community Safety:** Anti-Social Behaviour; Young People; Public Spaces; and Fraud.
- **Health (LCN):** Adults, children and young people suffering from mental health issues; Independent living for older people, including access to services and dementia support; Working age health conditions; Health inequalities including promotion and screening; Cost of living crisis.

This Strategic Intelligence Assessment is split by subgroup area and will be used as a starting point for the subgroups to inform their priorities and projects for 2023-24. Membership of the MSP Board is also regularly reviewed.

# Community Resilience

## Community Resilience Subgroup

The Community Resilience Subgroup includes Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA), representatives from the West Sussex County Council Partnerships and Communities Team; Sussex Community Foundation; Clarion; and Community Services staff from Mid Sussex District Council.

The overall purpose of the Subgroup is to consider community resilience issues across the district where partnership work can add value and implement partnership action to tackle these issues. Below is a high-level summary of activity based on the group's priorities.

Mid Sussex Community Resilience Subgroup  
Report for Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Year: 2022-2023  
Subgroup Chair: MSVA

**Priorities:**  
The priority themes for 2022-23 for the **Community Resilience subgroup** were:

- Sustainable Food Partnerships and Food Banks;
- Support for community transport;
- Addressing digital exclusion and support for Digital Champions;
- Encourage volunteering in the context of numbers no longer available following the pandemic.
- The MSDC NEETs Engagement and Prevention Service is also reported via the Community Resilience Subgroup.

Achieved	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Sussex Older People's Council (MSOPC) were awarded a grant to train up ten volunteer drivers. The cost includes MiDAS training, DBS, and petrol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will assist in increasing the number of trained volunteer drivers in the District, which will enable more minibus journeys for organisations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRS established a Winter Warmth Grant to offer £500 to any group or organisation that were running new activities or additional hours and targeting vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven organisations were awarded Winter Warmth grants, assisting community hubs offering warm hubs being open for longer and offering activities to vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA) hosted three Volunteers Fairs. One in each of the three towns in the District: Haywards Heath; East Grinstead; and Burgess Hill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Volunteers Fairs informed residents of volunteering opportunities. Recruitment of more volunteers, supports charities to address current complex capacity issues.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Library Service have a devices project and they are also offering toiletries to anyone in need. Citizens Online have agreed to implement their proposal on digital inclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in need are able to receive a laptop and data free of charge. People in need can pick up essential toiletries free. Residents will be able to access safety online advice.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of the food banks in the District was undertaken and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA) is recruiting a Food Co-ordinator for the Mid Sussex Food Partnership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of the fact that although crisis food provider are the busiest they've ever been, there is enough supply to meet demand.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSDC undertook a procurement exercise for the MSDC NEETs Engagement and Prevention Service, for those Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding has been secured and a three-year contract started in January 2023. Runway Training is the successful organisation and will engage with 30 young people each year.</li> </ul>

# Community Resilience data for 2022-23

## Local data

- Mid Sussex is home to 152,600 residents as of 2021 and 63,300 households (Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021).
- Mid Sussex is a prosperous district ranked 312<sup>th</sup> out of 317 council areas based on the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019.

## Census information

- Mid Sussex information gathered by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the 2021 census can be viewed in this [census map](#).
- ONS has also published a summary of changes in Mid Sussex between the last two censuses held in 2011 and 2021 that can be viewed on this [page](#).

## Population

- In Mid Sussex, the population size has increased by 9.1%, from around 139,860 in 2011 to 152,566 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England of (6.6%) and the average increase for the South-East of 7.5%. [Mid Sussex population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)
- The number of households in Mid Sussex has increased by 10.3% from 57,409 to 63,300. This is above the average increase for England of 6.2% and for West Sussex of 8.6%. Horsham has seen the largest increase in number of households in West Sussex of 13.6%.

## Age profile

Overall age breakdown for Mid Sussex from the 2021 Census –

	All	Under 15	15 - 64	65 and over	Under 15	15 - 64	65 and over
<b>Mid Sussex</b>	152,600	27,500	93,700	31,500	18.0%	61.4%	20.6%

- The Mid Sussex population has aged since the last census. There has been an increase of 24.5% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 5.0% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 8.8% in children aged under 15 years.
- There has been a 51% increase in Mid Sussex of those aged 70 – 74 and 35% increase in 75 - 79-year-olds.
- Nationally the population has also continued to age, with more than one in six people (18.4%) were aged 65 years and over on Census Day in 2021.

## Ethnicity

Mid Sussex is becoming more diverse.

- The White British population in Mid Sussex has decreased from 90.3% to 85.8% between 2011 and 2021. There is a similar trend at national level with a reduction in this ethnic group from 80.5% to 74.4%.
- In Mid Sussex, the main increase has been in the white other group from 3.8% to 5.2%. Nationally the percentage of the population identifying in this category was 6.2%, up from 4.4% in 2011.
- The next largest ethnic group in Mid Sussex is Asian or Asian British: Indian at 1.6% up from 1.0%. Nationally, this group accounted for 9.3% of the population, up from 7.5% in 2011.

## Country of birth and nationality

- The percentage of the population where the country of birth and passports held are outside of UK increased from 9.7% in 2011 to 11.90% in 2021.
- As with the national picture, the most common country of birth outside of the UK in Mid Sussex from the 2021 Census data is India.

### Top 10 most numerous non-UK populations in Mid Sussex in 2021

Country	Number of people
India	1,694
South Africa	1,237
Ireland	927
Romania	873
Poland	780
Germany	728
Philippines	653
United States	587
Italy	504
Zimbabwe	480

## Religion

The biggest changes in religious belief have been a 15.5% increase in those stating as having no religion to 42.1% and a 14.8% reduction in those stating Christian to 47.9%. Of the remaining who stated their religion, responses were spread across several faiths, with Muslim being the largest at 1.2%.

### Mid Sussex 2021 Census data compared to 2011:

Religion	2021	2011	% change
Christian	47.9%	62.7%	-14.8%
No religion	42.1%	26.6%	+15.5%
Muslim	1.2%	0.8%	+0.4%
Hindu	1%	0.6%	+0.4%
Other religion	0.7%	0.7%	-
Buddhist	0.4%	0.4%	-
Jewish	0.2%	0.2%	-
Sikh	0.1%	0.1%	-
Not stated	6.3%	7.9%	-1.6%

## Health

Information from the 2021 Census showed that 53.2% of Mid Sussex residents described their health as "very good", increasing from 51.1% in 2011. Those describing their health as "good" fell from 34.5% to 33.3%. The proportion of Mid Sussex residents describing their health as "very bad" was 0.7%, while those describing their health as "bad" was 2.6%. Both these proportions are comparable to the figures for 2011. In addition to the health information from the Census:

- Public Health England publish the annual [Mid Sussex Health Profile](#). Topics include deprivation, life expectancy, early deaths, health inequalities by ethnic group and a summary of 32 health indicators comparing Mid Sussex with England and the South-East.
- The Local Government Association's LG Inform publish [Health and Wellbeing in Mid Sussex: An Overview](#) which provides data on various health topics.

## Disability

[Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) Mid Sussex 2021 Census data (2011 figures in brackets):

- 5.0% (5.8%) are disabled under the equality act: day to day activities limited a lot.
- 9.2% (8.4%) are disabled under the equality act: day to day activities limited a little.
- 85.8% (85.8%) not disabled under the equality act.
- 72.6% of households have no disabled people.
- 22.5% 1 person disabled in the household.
- 4.9% 2 or more disabled in household.

## Sexual Orientation

For the first time the 2021 census asked about sexual orientation.

Mid Sussex 2021 Census data
91.05% straight or heterosexual
1.33% gay or lesbian
1.06% bisexual
0.16% pansexual
0.06% asexual
0.02% queer
0.02% another
6.32% not answered

The above table shows that 2.63% of the Mid Sussex population answered as LGB+. Nationally, around 1.5 million people (3.2%) identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). The local authority with the largest LGB+ population among those aged 16 years and over was Brighton and Hove (10.7%).

## Gender Identity

This was one of the new questions for the 2021 Census. In Mid Sussex 0.32% had a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth, compared to 0.5% (262,000) nationally.

Mid Sussex 2021 Census data (national figures in brackets)
95% had a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth
0.12% had a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth but no specific identity given (0.24%)
0.07% a trans woman (0.10%)
0.06% a trans man (0.10%)
0.05% non-binary (0.06%)
0.03% another gender identity (0.04%)
4.68% not answered.

## Education

Mid Sussex has a comparatively professionally qualified population, with 38.7% qualified to level 4 or 5 (first degree or higher). This has increased from 33.6% in 2011. 11.7% had no qualifications, down from 14.8% in 2011. [Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS](#)

## UK Armed Forces Connection

The 2021 Census included for the first time a question on whether anyone in the household has an armed forces connection. 4,673 people in Mid Sussex, 3.8% of usual residents aged 16 and over, reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is consistent with the national figure of 3.8%. Mid Sussex veterans comprised 2.7% who had served with the regular forces, 0.9% in the reserves and 0.2% in both. See the [Armed Forces Community Covenant - Mid Sussex District Council](#) for further information on support for the Armed Forces community.

## Employment

- As of September 2022, 66,800 working age residents (85%) are in employment (Nomis, 2022).
- The median annual earnings for full-time working residents is £38,880 (Nomis, 2022).
- The proportion of retired people in the District has increased from 14.17% to 23.92% between 2011 and 2021.
- The number of usual residents aged 16-74 who work mainly at home or from home has shown a substantial increase from 5,471 in 2011 to 31,314 in 2021. At the time of the Census however, the government were advising people to stay at home and only attend work if there was no alternative.



## Local businesses

According to the [2022 UK Business Counts](#) Mid Sussex currently has a total of 7,360 businesses which are VAT and/or PAYE registered.

The largest industry group in the district is professional, scientific and technical (19.8% of the businesses), followed closely by construction (15%) and Business administration & support services (10%).

Of the top 5 industries in Mid Sussex: professional; scientific and technical has a higher share of businesses in Mid Sussex (19.8%) than in West Sussex as a whole (17.2%). However, construction has a slightly higher share of businesses in West Sussex compared to Mid Sussex (15.4% compared to 15%).

Extensive information about the Mid Sussex economy is available in the District Profile prepared to inform the Council's Sustainable Economy Strategy 2022 – 2025 [Sustainable Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025 - Mid Sussex District Council](#)

West Sussex County Council provide a monthly snapshot of the West Sussex economy, with information broken down to District Council level. These can be found at [West Sussex economy snapshots - West Sussex County Council](#)

## Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 ranks Mid Sussex 312<sup>th</sup> out of 317 councils, although there are pockets of relative deprivation in each of the three towns. These are at Haywards Heath, Bentswood ward, which ranks highest in Mid Sussex with an overall deprivation score of 29.2, followed by Burgess Hill, Victoria ward with 24, then East Grinstead, Ashplats ward with a deprivation score of 19.9.

## Housing

Census 2021 figures for Mid Sussex:

- 37.2% of households (23,564) are owned with a mortgage, loan, or shared ownership. This compares with 29.8% (6,980,323) across England.
- 10.8% of households (6,812) are socially rented. 17.1% (4,005,663) of households across England are socially rented. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, Mid Sussex had a total of 1,932 households on the Housing Register.
- 15.3% of households (9,714) are privately rented or rent free. This compares with 20.6% (4,825,406) across England.

Further information about housing and homelessness in Mid Sussex can be found on the Housing Strategies page of the Council's website, especially the Homelessness Review [Housing Strategies - Mid Sussex District Council](#)

## Cost of Living Issues in Mid Sussex

The number of Universal Credit claimants is an indicator of the numbers affected by cost-of-living issues, both for the unemployed and those in work. Department of Work and Pensions figures show that the numbers of people claiming Universal Credit in West Sussex has increased 121% since March 2020 - from 27,355 to 60,488 in March 2023. In West Sussex, the percentage of people in employment claiming Universal Credit increased since March 2020 from 41.14% to 44.1% in February 2023. In February 2023, within West Sussex, Mid Sussex (3,440) has seen the highest percentage of Universal Credit claimants who are in work at 47% followed by Crawley (5,638) and Horsham (3,216) at 45%.

The change in Mid Sussex in Universal Credit claimants from March 2020 (the start of the pandemic) to March 2023 was 134%, 3,169 to 7,410

## Sustainable Food Partnerships and Community Hubs

The Community Resilience Subgroup has been involved with the development of the Mid Sussex Food Partnership bringing together organisations in the Mid Sussex area who work to overcome food poverty, reduce food waste, and distribute to those in need. The main foodbanks in Mid Sussex are at Haywards Heath and East Grinstead, run by the Trussell Trust, and the Burgess Hill Community Food Bank. Demand for these services and assistance for those in fuel poverty has increased with the “cost of living crisis” arising from the increase in energy and other costs.

The Subgroup is also involved with the development of a network of community hubs in the District. Community hubs provide a public space that bring several community agencies and neighbourhood groups together to offer a range of activities, programs, and services. These can link into sustainable food partnership initiatives through such services as community cafés. Community hub sites include Bentswood in Haywards Heath, Stone Quarry in East Grinstead, and the Cherry Tree in Burgess Hill.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was introduced by the Government to succeed the old European Union structural funds, with funding allocated directly to local authorities to deliver at a local level on the government’s levelling up agenda. Mid Sussex was awarded £1 million to allocate over 3 years. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan agreed by the MSP Board included investment in the three community hubs, which are situated in the three wards with the highest levels of deprivation in the District.

# Community Safety

## Community Safety Subgroup

The Community Safety Subgroup is the Community Safety Partnership element of the MSP. It includes representatives from Sussex Police; Mid Sussex District Council; Town councils; West Sussex County Council Community Safety Team; a representative from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office; Mid Sussex Voluntary Action; and a school representative. Below is a high-level summary of activity based on the group's priorities.

Mid Sussex Community Safety Subgroup  
Report for Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Year: 2022-2023  
Subgroup Chair: MSDC and Sussex Police

### Priorities: The priority themes for 2022-23 for the Community Safety subgroup were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Young People;
- Public Spaces;
- Fraud.

Achieved	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSDC’s ASB Team; Sussex Police, and the three Town Councils worked together and delivered activities during the national ASB Awareness Week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working, community presence, engagement with youth people resulting in potentially preventing ASB and low level crime.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSDC organised five “Your life, You Choose” school law days, led by local Magistrates, delivered to three different secondary schools in the District.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8 school pupils aware of consequences for victims and perpetrators when ASB and crimes take place.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentivity youth mentoring group funded with six young people completing the 12 week programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with young people at risk of involvement in ASB and crime, to identify and recognise their aspirations, drawing them away from ASB.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded Youth outreach via the Purple Bus delivered by SCYP every Friday at King George’s Playing Field in East Grinstead.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth worker building positive and respectful relationships. Youth related ASB in the town has significantly decreased since the project started.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSDC paid for an annual membership for the national Safe Place Scheme. Mid Sussex joined the bespoke Sussex Safe Space scheme which was launched in 2022 by the PCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are supported if they feel vulnerable when out and about and safe spaces are provided for people that feel vulnerable.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners promote the national monthly Get Safe Online campaigns, passing on useful tips on online safety.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factual and easy to understand information on online safety is provided to members of the public.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSDC published awareness raising information on doorstep fraud and impersonator fraud in the Winter and Spring editions of Mid Sussex Matters respectively.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable residents of the District have easily accessible information on fraud to prevent the from becoming victims.</li> </ul>

## Community Safety data 2023

### Local Policing Priorities for Mid Sussex

As a District Mid Sussex remains one of the safest in England however the challenge for the Police and the partnership is to help people feel safer. Sussex Police has three core priorities. These alongside the Police and Crime Commissioners strategic intentions provide directions for policing in Mid-Sussex:

- Keep our communities safe and feeling safe;
- Identify and protect vulnerable people;
- Prevent and respond to harm.

Resources have been invested in additional staff, including an increase in neighbourhood policing and the Rural Crime Team. Neighbourhood or Prevention Policing is about engagement and providing targeted intervention to solve longer term issues, whilst boosting public confidence.

Local partnership priorities are:

- vulnerable people, both young and old,
- reducing violent crime, and
- seeking to reduce incidents of hate.

### Partnership Analyst

The MSP has contributed to the employment of a Partnership Analyst at West Sussex County Council to prepare an overall annual report for the Safer West Sussex Partnerships and individual Strategic Intelligence Assessments (SIAs) majoring on community safety data for each of the County's District and Borough Councils. The following Community Safety data and summary has been produced for the update of the SIA 2023.

# Crime Summary



Total recorded crime  
↑10%  
6789 offences in 2022

Mid Sussex had lowest  
crime rates across  
West Sussex  
44 crimes per 1000 residents  
(up from 41 in 2021)

Severity of crime  
lowest in West Sussex  
*and lower than Sussex & England*  
(Crime Severity Score: 7 in Mid Sussex,  
11.6 in Sussex, & 15.9 in England)

Violent crime  
accounted for 56%  
Mid Sussex total crime

Levels of violent crime  
↑10%  
(2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in WSx)

Violence and drug  
offences increased  
compared to pre-  
pandemic levels

Sexual offences ↓12%  
(yet 9% lower than 2019)  
2<sup>nd</sup> lowest rate of sexual  
offending in West Sussex

Domestic abuse crimes  
remained static  
*accounts for the 12% of  
County's DA*

Drugs offences ↓17%;  
yet ↑16% higher than  
pre-pandemic levels

Burglary offences ↓31%  
(2<sup>nd</sup> lowest  
in West Sussex)

Theft offences ↑22%  
Lowest in West Sussex  
along with Adur

Theft from a vehicle (↑5%)  
Bike theft (↑20%)  
Theft from a person (↑32%)  
Theft other (↑34%)  
Shoplifting (↑36%)  
Theft of motor vehicles  
(↑7%)

# District Profile



Mid Sussex covers **129miles<sup>2</sup>**  
 Main urban areas:  
 Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, East Grinstead & Hassocks

**11** of the districts' wards are within the top 10% least deprived areas among England & Wales

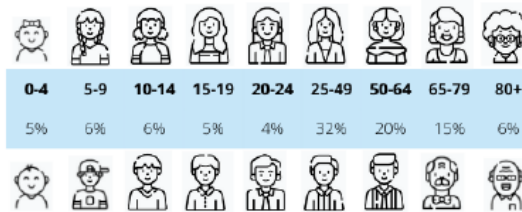


**4.57** residence per hectare Mid Sussex population density

**17%** of West Sussex population resides in Mid Sussex



**152,600** people living in Mid Sussex (Census 2021)  
 ↑**9.1%** increase since 2020



**22%** are under 19 years old

**56%** are between 20 and 64 years old (Working Age Adults)



**21%** are over 65 years old (Older Residents)



**78,500** Female (51%)  
**74,100** Male (49%)



**1%** of households lack central heating; same as in West Sussex



**9%** of all Children We Care For in West Sussex living in Mid Sussex



**8%** of children in Mid Sussex living in poverty



**8%** NEET of children in West Sussex reside in Mid Sussex

# Crime & Disorder



**6789** recorded crimes in 2022 in Mid Sussex  
 (↑**10%** since 2021; yet ↓**4%** since 2019 )  
 The overall crime rate was 44 per 1000 population



Police recorded crimes are similar, or exceeding levels seen prior Covid-19, both nationally and locally



**Violent crimes**  
**56%** of all crimes  
**3788** in 2022



**Theft offences**  
 (18% of all crimes)  
**1195** in 2022  
 (↑**22%** since 2021)



**Arson & Criminal damage**  
 (13% of all crimes)  
**850** in 2022  
 (↑**19%** since 2021)



**Burglary**  
 (3% of all crimes)  
**226** in 2022 (↓**31%** since 2021 & ↓**57%** to 2019)



**Drugs offences**  
 (3% all crimes)  
**172** in 2022 (↓**17%** since 2021 but ↑**16%** compared to 2019)

**Drugs possession**  
**148** in 2022  
 ↑**3%** comparing to 2021 (from 144 offences) and ↑**15%** since 2019

**Drug Trafficking**  
**24** in 2022 (↓**56%** in 2021; yet ↑**26%** in 2019)



**Vehicle offences**  
 (6% of all crimes)  
**413** in 2022  
 (↑**8%** since 2021)



**Domestic Abuse Incidents**  
**609** in 2022  
 (↓**6%** since 2021)

**Domestic Abuse Crimes**  
**1052** in 2022  
 (the same as in 2021)



**Sexual offences**  
**250** in 2022  
 (↓**12%** since 2021)

Direct comparisons with pre-pandemic levels have not been provided as data is unavailable due to changes in police recording

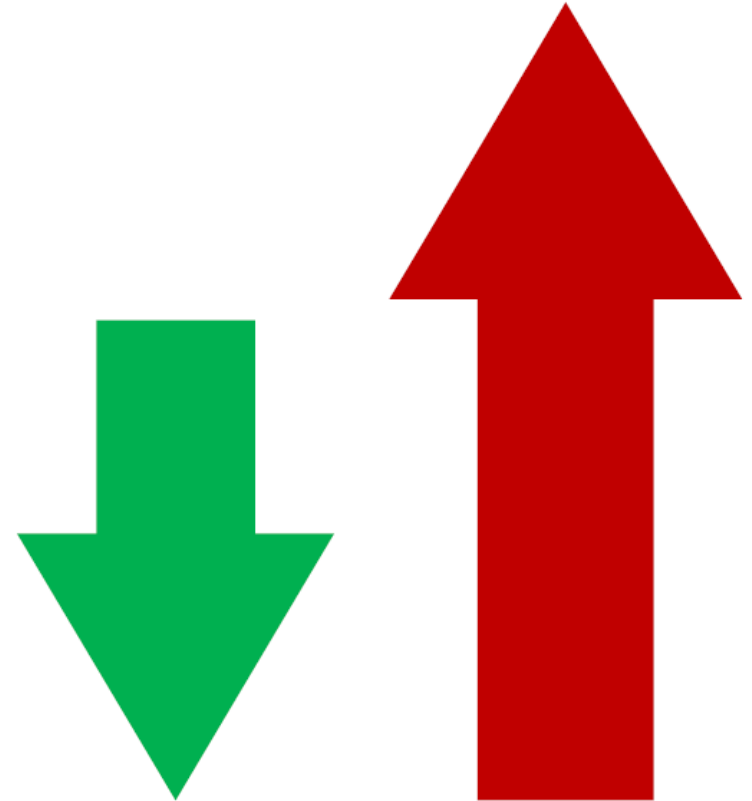


## Increases in Crime

- Arson and Criminal Damage ↑19%
- Burglary ↑34%
- Robbery ↑113%
- Violence against the person ↑10%
- Violent crime ↑10%
- Knife crime (ADR 160 NDQIS) ↑27%
- Possession of weapon ↑5%
- Theft Of A Motor Vehicle ↑7%
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle ↑5%
- Theft from a person ↑34%
- Bike theft ↑20%
- Shoplifting ↑36%
- Other theft ↑16%
- Vehicle offences ↑8%
- Hate crime ↑42%

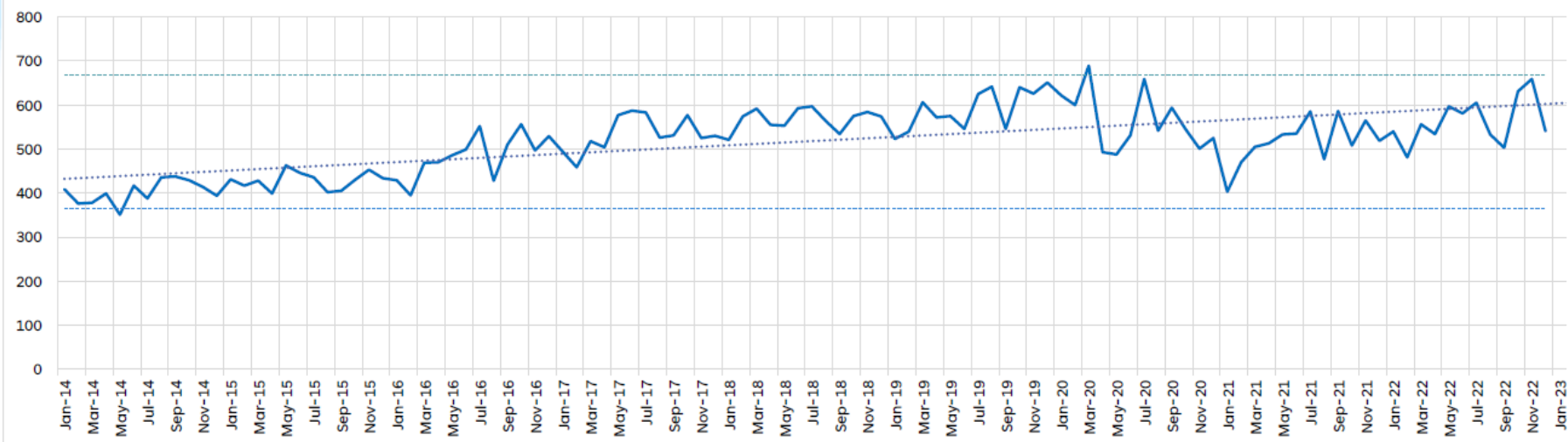
## Reductions in Crime

- Burglary ↓31%
- Drug Offences ↓17%
- ASB ↓56%
- Domestic Abuse incidents ↓6%
- Sexual offences ↓12%





Mid Sussex Total Crimes Jan 2014 - Dec 2022



Recorded offences	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Monthly 2019	523	540	606	572	575	546	625	642	546	640	626	651
Monthly 2020	622	600	689	493	488	531	659	542	594	545	501	525
Monthly 2021	403	470	505	513	533	535	585	477	586	508	565	519
Monthly 2022	540	481	556	534	597	581	605	533	503	631	659	541



Mid Sussex remained the **lowest** rate per 1000 population of violent crime offences; accounting for 12% of the county's total.



**53 serious violence\*** offences in Mid Sussex in 2022 crimes in West Sussex (**7%**); yet increased **↑33%** comparing to previous year

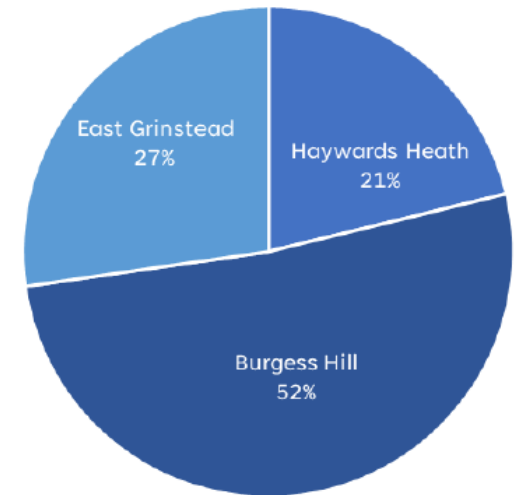
*\* (non domestic, public place)*



**8%** of the county's knife crimes were recorded in Mid Sussex

The vast majority were linked to acts of Violence Against the Person

Mid Sussex Knife crime (ADR 160 NDQIS) in 2022



**5256** nominals\* of violence were identified by Sussex Police in Mid Sussex. **27%** were children

Average age of young people involved in violence: **12 years**



Average age of young suspects (U18) of violence was 14 years of age



**31%** of the youth violence was committed by repeated offenders



Serious Violence Hotspots wards: Burgess Hill, Meads (**16%** of SV crimes in Mid Sussex)



Over half of the SVC in Mid Sussex were **Violence Against the Person** offences (63%)

**Robbery** accounted for 34% of SVC

*\*Nominals – individuals involved in crimes either as suspects, offenders or victims*

# Violence



Mid Sussex remained the **lowest** rate per 1000 population of violent crime offences; accounting for 12% of the county's total.

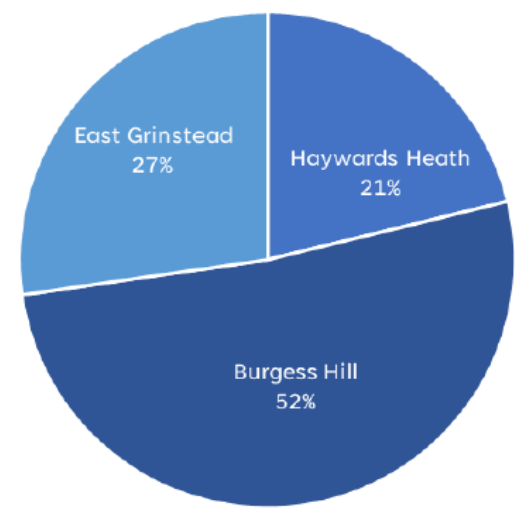


**53 serious violence\*** offences in Mid Sussex in 2022 crimes in West Sussex (**7%**); yet increased **↑33%** comparing to previous year  
\* (non domestic, public place)



**8%** of the county's knife crimes were recorded in Mid Sussex  
The vast majority were linked to acts of Violence Against the Person

Mid Sussex Knife crime (ADR 160 NDQIS) in 2022



**5256** nominals\* of violence were identified by Sussex Police in Mid Sussex.  
**27%** were children

Average age of young people involved in violence: **12 years**



Average age of young suspects (U18) of violence was 14 years of age



**31%** of the youth violence was committed by repeated offenders



Serious Violence Hotspots wards: Burgess Hill, Meads (**16%** of SV crimes in Mid Sussex)



Over half of the SVC in Mid Sussex were **Violence Against the Person** offences (63%)  
**Robbery** accounted for 34% of SVC

\*Nominals – individuals involved in crimes either as suspects, offenders or victims

# Acquisitive Crime



Theft from a shop increase 36%; mainly from supermarkets across the district; and figures 10% lower than shop thefts crimed in 2019



103 less Burglary offences recorded last year (31% decrease); and 57% lower than pre-pandemic (2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in West Sussex, after Adur)



Vehicle Crime reports increased 8%

18% of County's catalytic convertors thefts occurred in Mid Sussex (3<sup>rd</sup> highest)



Theft from a person offences almost 32% higher than last year; yet 25% lower than pre pandemic levels



Levels of Robbery (Business & Personal) remain low across the district; despite 113% since last year (32 offences in 2022)



Theft offences increased 22% last year, and accounted for 10% of the County's crime \*



Theft of pedal cycles were around 20% higher than last year but ↓40% since pandemic levels

\* Direct comparisons with 2019 should be treated with caution owing to changes in police recording (theft no longer includes handling offences)



### Drugs offences

3% total Mid Sussex crime

**172** offences in 2022. Reduced by almost 17% yet 16% higher than pre pandemic levels



Anti social behavior

**1211** ASB offences in 2022 (reduction of 56%)

Mid Sussex DC also recorded 255 cases of ASB (↓2% compared to 2021)



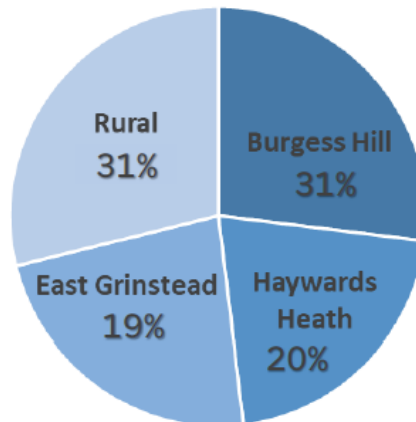
### Drugs possession

**148** in 2022

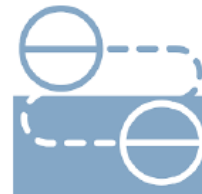
↑3% increase from 144 in 2021; and ↑15% compared to 2019

### Drug Trafficking

**24** offences in 2022 (↓56% since 2021)



Mid Sussex District Council  
Anti-Social Behaviour Action 2022



Of all the county lines operating across West Sussex in 2022, **10%** were operating from Mid Sussex (Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill)



There were **535** admission to hospital across Mid Sussex for Alcohol Specific Conditions.

## HATE CRIME

### Hate Crime

**206** in 2022 ↑ from 145 in 2021

### Hate Incidents

**53** in 2022 ↓ from 72 in 2021

### Hate Crime (Sexuality)

**30** in 2022 ↓ from 35 in 2021

### Hate Crime (race)

**149** in 2022 ↑ from 88 in 2021

### Hate Crime (disablist)

**19** in 2022 static from 2021



**723** Action Fraud reports in Mid Sussex in **2022** (↓18% since 2021); yet 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the County (**16%** of all West Sussex)

**225** Op Signature reports (↓8%); 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the County Courier fraud most reported, almost third of all and ↑29%



**Orchards Shopping Centre**  
Iceland and car park adjacent  
Victoria Park

**Youth ASB:**

Disruptive, threatening and abusive behaviour and language/actions towards adults and/or shop staff

**Update:** Problems reduced since YP identified and parents were contacted



**KFC**  
Haywards Heath

**Youth ASB:**

Young people verbally abusive in the restaurant; causing a nuisance to staff and customers



**Martlets Centre**  
Burgess Hill

**Drugs, vandalism, graffiti & risk of arson:**

Racist and far-right graffiti, arson, fireworks and vandalism of parking machines, evidence of drug taking



**East Court**  
East Grinstead

**Vandalise:**

Vandalism and fires lit



**Mount Noddy**  
Recreation ground  
East Grinstead

**Youth ASB:**

Abusive behaviour and language, vandalism and attempted arson



**Town Centre**  
East Grinstead

**Youth ASB:**

Young people on the roofs of shop buildings; and anti-social, abusive and threatening behaviour in KFC and McDonalds



**The Kings Centre**  
East Grinstead

**Drugs:**

Anti-social, threatening and abusive behaviour  
**Update:** ASB reduced since Sussex Clubs for Young People intervention have been provided in this area



**Town Centre**  
Burgess Hill  
**Youth ASB, graffiti:**

Verbal abuse towards users of a local charity that support people with learning disabilities  
High levels of racist graffiti in Town Centre

Mid Sussex remained the lowest crime rate across West Sussex last year; despite the rise from 40.6 to 44 crimes per 1000 population.

The cost of crime in Mid Sussex was £24.7 million, accounting for 12% of the County total; majority due to Violence Against the Person offences. 40% of the offences occurred in Burgess Hill, followed by Haywards Heath (33%) and East Grinstead (27%).

Rises in crimes have been driven predominantly by an increase in violent and acquisitive crime; which mirrors county trends. Levels of crime appear to be stabilising following irregularity and anomalies associated with the pandemic and associated lockdowns and social restrictions. Data suggests a shift towards more victim-centric and acquisitive offences such as robbery and theft.

The Crime peaked during summer months and then again in autumn (highest between May-July and October-November) where an average of 600 offences were recorded each month. Offending decreased for the rest of the year; dipping to 541 offences in December. These spikes are in line with notable economic events last year including the significant rise in household bills which came into force in April and went up again October 2022. Criminal damage and bike thefts seen the highest number of crimes in October since 2018.

Of the all the nominals involved in crimes, either as a victims or suspect/offenders fifth were children and 15% of suspects/offenders were under 18. Violence against the person crimes accounted for the highest number of crimes, with almost a quarter of crimes committed by Children or Young people under 25.

Mid Sussex along with Worthing were the only localities to see the increase in thefts across all categories, including vehicle thefts. 139 vehicles were stolen across the District in 2022 (up from 130 crimes in 2021); 2<sup>nd</sup> highest along with Crawley.

Theft offences increased 22% compared to the previous 12 months; this was mainly driven by rises in 'other theft\*' (with blackmail crimes 2<sup>nd</sup> highest across the county along with Arun) and shoplifting offences. Despite the increase in shoplifting across the District (up 36% since 2021 and 10% compared to pre-pandemic levels) the number of these crimes were the lowest in West Sussex (6% of total crimes). Interestingly, despite a small reduction in "making off without payment" offences (↓13% since 2021), Mid Sussex remained to have the highest number of these offences across the County. As in previous year, the majority of crimes occurred at the petrol stations in Slaugham and Copthorne & Worth wards (71%). Of note is a rise of catalytic convertors thefts; with Mid Sussex accounting for the 18% of County crime (3<sup>rd</sup> highest).

Looking at the weapon crimes, both possession of weapons and knife crime increased, respectively 5% and 27% compared to previous year; this leaves Mid Sussex with one of the lowest rate of weapon related crime across West Sussex.

Despite an increases in Criminal Damage and Arson in Mid Sussex rates remained one of the lowest across the County. Incidents of Arson increased 60% (n=18) since 2021; yet figures remain low at 48 crimes.

Mid Sussex was the only locality to see the reduction in burglary offences, with crimes reducing by almost a third compared to previous year and 57% since 2019. Drug crime, domestic abuse crimes, sexual offences and incidents of antisocial behaviour all reduced in 2022; bucking national trends.

Whilst drug offences reduced in Mid Sussex compared to previous 12 months, the offending is now 16% (n=24) higher compared to pre-pandemic level. This is not seen across other localities. Moreover, whilst drug possession reduced notably across all Districts & Boroughs, the crimes in Mid Sussex remained similar compared to previous 12 months and are 15% higher compared to pre-pandemic levels.

\* Other theft: Includes theft by an employee, blackmail, making off without payment & any theft offences not classified elsewhere, ie removal of articles from public (i.e. a parcel stolen from the outside of the house) or theft from vehicle other than a motor vehicle or pedal cycle (i.e motor boat)

The government is largely attributing increases in crime with the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. Whilst this is true of some offence types; especially where the opportunity to commit crime was curtailed by lockdown and social restrictions, it is naïve to assume the impact of political, economic and social instability hasn't played a part too.

Nevertheless, it is imperative to understand the extent which the pandemic exacerbated underlying vulnerabilities within and across communities. Health, economic, and social inequities made some communities more vulnerable to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic than others. The societal impact of the pandemic must also be recognised; with cohorts of children throughout the whole education system referred to as 'covid classes' who have missed out vital education; from early years socialisation to essential relationships, sex and health education (including elements of citizenship) and physical time away from the classroom. This lost time cannot be underestimated as it is these and other 'hidden' aspects of the curriculum that help shape young people through adolescence, provide a counter narrative to the things they see and hear online or in their communities and for some young people; school is a place of safety, security and consistency where they will be warm, have access to food and trusted adults.

The youth antisocial behaviour has increased nationally and locally, in Mid Sussex this is corroborated by the disruptive, threatening and abusive youth behaviour reported through local Peer Group Conferences. Whilst this needs to be addressed both to create safety and diversion for those involved, drive down crime and reassure members of the public; a lack of universal youth provision and social policy over the last decade have effectively *designed out* young people from public spaces; meaning youths congregating with peers in groups may now be perceived by members of the public to be acts of anti social or criminal behaviour. Acts of serious and ultra violence are closely linked with organised crime and exploitation; therefore it is not implausible to suggest rises in more serious youth crime are indicative of a wider problem (across the County and region as a whole) of children being drawn into organised criminality. This is corroborated by county lines statistics which suggests that of all the drug lines operating in Sussex, at least one actively involves drugs being bought into Haywards Heath. In total across the District in 2022 at least four were operating all of which are believe to be closed now.

It is interesting and potentially concerning that offences such as drugs and domestic abuse have reduced (in Mid Sussex and across West Sussex); at a time when demand on therapeutic services is at an all time high and the social context is ripe for these types of incidents to increase. Research shows that stress, loss of income and social isolation all can exacerbate the risk of violence at home and/or lead to increased use of substances which can create problematic usage/dependency in some people, and exacerbate vulnerabilities and comm tensions for some groups. The rise in racist hate crime is something to monitor.



# Health and Wellbeing

## Local Community Network (Health Subgroup)

The MSP's Health Subgroup comprises a range of statutory and third sector partners including the Council's Wellbeing Service; CCG; Public Health; Sussex Community NHS Trust; and Healthwatch. The group has been officially recognised by the West Sussex Health and Care Partnership Executive and NHS Integrated Care System as the Local Community Network (LCN) for Mid Sussex. In West Sussex, the LCNs now form the ground level mechanisms to enable effective local partnership activity, along with the three Primary Care Networks in Mid Sussex and 20 PCN's across West Sussex. This approach recognises that District and Brough Councils have oversight of what is going on for their local populations and enables partnership working between Health and all partners at a level and scale that is practical and effective. Below is a high-level summary of activity based on the group's priorities.

Mid Sussex LCN Health Subgroup  
Report for Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Year:  
Subgroup Chair

2022-2023  
MSDC

**Priorities:**  
The priority themes for 2022-23 for the LCN Health subgroup were:

- Adults, children, and young people suffering from mental health issues;
- Independent living for older people, including access to services and dementia support;
- Working age health conditions;
- Health inequalities, including promotion and screening.
- Cost of Living Crisis.

Achieved	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Watch and Places Leisure provided a 'Free' Community event at The Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working, community presence, engagement with residents resulting in raised awareness of Health and Wellbeing checks, screening, and providing information.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Sussex Older People's Council (MSOPC) were funded a grant to host a series of light lunches in various locations in the district.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging people to get out of their homes and socialise, and provide information about how organisations can help people to make sure their homes are heated and safe.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded Places Leisure a grant to provide cardiac rehab during the evening and weekend in addition to the current sessions that are very well attended but are during the day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow more people to attend cardiac rehab sessions run by Places Leisure, and allow people to attend at a time convenient to them during the evening and weekend.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BHTC and BH District Lions hosted a very successful free to use diabetes screening event in BH on 4th March 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed 94 tests during the day. 14 out of 94 were at a NDH (prediabetes) and 1 was at a Type 2 Diabetes level. The Wellbeing team made 10 referrals for their programmes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Winter Support leaflet was written and published in Mid Sussex Matters Council magazine and <a href="#">website</a>. It is available online and as hard copies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents of the District are aware of help that is available, as support items included Affordable warmth, financial support, and Food provision.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Community Connections Directory of Services for Older People in Mid Sussex</a> has been developed and distributed to Help Points, GP practices and information points.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working providing easily accessible information about services for older people in the form of a Directory. This is distributed to older people and professionals.</li> </ul>

## Health Challenges in Mid Sussex

There are underlying health challenges for Mid Sussex, some of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Mid Sussex overall is a healthy place to live and grow. It is frequently in the best 25% of all areas on a range of childhood measures known to have an impact on longer term health and wellbeing. There are, however, several health challenges for Mid Sussex, including those relating to the district's ageing population. The number of people aged 65+ and 85+ is projected to rise in the next 10 years by 22% and 28% respectively. There are increasing numbers of people with one (or more) long term health conditions, including over 14,000 carers (of which 3,500 are 65+).

Other health challenges for Mid Sussex include:

- Estimated 15,000 – 20,000 smokers
- Over 60% of adults are overweight or obese
- There are over 6,000 adults with diabetes
- Over 16% of adults are physically inactive
- There has been a slight rise in early mortality in fewer than 75s which may mean the next generation of 65+ are not as healthy as the previous generation.

## Health Priorities for the Wellbeing Service

The District Council is commissioned by Public Health, West Sussex County Council to provide a Wellbeing Service with the aim of preventing ill health through the promotion of healthy lifestyles. This is provided through a Wellbeing Hub, which provides signposting, advice, and a range of locally commissioned services.

During 2022/23, the Wellbeing service delivered 1,997 interventions, with 93% of those who responded to requests for feedback reporting a health improvement.

Priorities for the Wellbeing Services are in line with the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024: Start Well, Live Well, Age Well and the latest Health Profile.

## Starting Well



Improved mother and baby health and wellbeing, especially for those in most need



Good mental health for all children



Children growing in a safe & healthy home environment with supporting and nurturing parents and carers



Children and young people leaving care are healthy and independent

## Living and Working Well



Individuals, families, friends and communities are connected



People are able to look after their own health



People have access to good quality homes providing a secure place to thrive and promote good health, wellbeing and independent living



People live, work & play in environments that promote health and wellbeing

## Ageing Well



Fewer older people feel lonely or socially isolated



Older adults stay healthier, happier and independent for longer



There is a reduction in the number of older people having falls



People receive good quality end of life care and have a good death

A copy of the [Strategy](#) and supporting documents can be downloaded from the Health and Wellbeing Board website [www.westsussex.gov.uk/hwb](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/hwb).

Priorities in Mid Sussex include falls prevention (those at risk of falling & Hip fractures), adult weight management and prevention and diagnosis of type 2 diabetes (prediabetes interventions). Priorities in Mid Sussex that are on a par with national trends include:

- falls prevention (those at risk of falling and hip fractures)
- Estimate dementia diagnosis rate
- Adult and child weight management
- prevention & diagnosis of type 2 diabetes
- Hospital admission rate for alcohol-specific conditions
- Smoking prevalence in adults
- Percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese
- Smoking prevalence in adults in routine and manual occupations
- Excess winter deaths index

Issues which are significantly worse than the national average are:

- Emergency hospital admission rate for intentional self-harm
- Killed and seriously injured rate on roads
- Estimate diabetes Diagnosis rate

## Health Challenges for the South-East Region

Southeast England report released in June 2022

[Health Profile for the Southeast of England 2021 \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

[Health Profile for England: 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Health intelligence presented in these 7 chapters:

- COVID-19- Nationally, there was an association between deprivation and excess mortality, with an excess mortality ratio of 1.17 in the most deprived areas and 1.13 in the least deprived areas. As with the regional figures, this considers any existing inequality in mortality by deprivation. So, greater excess mortality in deprived areas is an indication that COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities by deprivation. Between 27 March 2020 and 31 December 2021, the cumulative excess mortality ratio for the Southeast was 1.105. This means that there were 1.105 times more deaths in this period than expected.
- Mortality and life expectancy - Life expectancy at birth from 2001 to 2020 has increased for both females and males in the Southeast. However, compared to 2019, life expectancy fell in 2020 by 0.8 years for females to 83.7 years and by 0.9 years for males to 80.1 years.
- Child health - Prevention and treatment of childhood obesity presents a significant public health challenge. Obesity in childhood can result in the early onset of cardio-metabolic, respiratory, and musculoskeletal conditions, as well as adverse psycho-social outcomes and an increased risk of living with obesity and associated mortality and morbidity later in life. The prevalence of obesity in both males and females for Reception year and Year 6 children from 2006/07 to 2019/20 In the Southeast has increased for both sexes. In 2019/20 8.6% of Reception year females were obese, compared with 9.2% of Reception year males. For Year 6 females the prevalence of obesity in 2019/20 was 15.7% compared to 19.8% of Year 6 males.
- Adult health - As well as life expectancy (how long the population could expect to live), it is also important to consider the quality of life or length of time spent in good health. This is described as “healthy life expectancy”. Information on healthy life expectancy is not yet available for the years covering the pandemic. In the Southeast healthy life expectancy for females, decreased by 1.2 years from 67 years in 2010-12 to 65.8 years in 2017-19. The average years of life lived in poor health for females in 2017-19 was 18.5 years. For males, healthy life expectancy decreased slightly by 0.2 years from 65.5 years in 2010-12 to 65.3 years in 2017-19. The average years of life lived in poor health for males in 2017-19 was 15.5 years.
- Risk factors associated with ill health - The risk factors making the largest contribution to morbidity in the Southeast are high body mass index, high fasting plasma glucose, tobacco, and alcohol use. Whereas the risk factors making the biggest contribution to mortality in the Southeast are tobacco,

high blood pressure, diet, and high fasting plasma glucose. in the South East, the percentage of adults overweight or obese increased from 59.7% in 2015/16 to 62.4% in 2020/21, but [remains statistically significantly](#) lower than England (63.5%).

- The wider determinants of health – The Southeast fairs well in comparison to national statistics under the wider determinates for health including the built and natural environment, Education, Employment (local rates have fallen) and Income.
- Health protection- [Flu vaccine uptake](#) in those aged 65 and over, in the Southeast, increased significantly in 2020/21 to 81.8%. This was the first year since 2010/11 that the national target of 75% was reached. Whilst there was [variation across local authorities](#) in the Southeast in 2020/21. Air pollution can contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory conditions and shorten lives. It is estimated that long-term exposure to air pollution in the UK has an annual effect equivalent to 28,000 to 36,000 deaths
- The trend of air pollution from man-made fine particulate matter for the Southeast between 2011 and 2020 has been variable, with a peak during 2016. In 2020, the level of air pollution from man-made fine particulate matter was 7.4µg/m<sup>3</sup> in the Southeast compared to 6.9µg/m<sup>3</sup> for England (slightly above national average). Sexual transmitted diseases also continue to trend below national averages.

The 2021 Health Profile for the South-East presents data on health and well-being in the region. The analysis has highlighted the following points for the region:

- increased mortality rates with some widening inequalities
- improvements in child health have been slowing down
- mental health and wellbeing have deteriorated
- deaths from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have increased
- diabetes has become a major disease burden
- cancer diagnoses have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- behavioural risk factors have not been improving
- employment rates have fallen

## Health Legacy of Covid Pandemic

The full impact of the pandemic on health in the region is not yet known, but evidence from national analysis has shown that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on cohorts of the population who were already facing disadvantage. Action to address inequalities in health and promote equitable health gain for all is a priority. The main health challenges arising from the pandemic can be summarised as follows:

- a greater need to address mental health and loneliness issues for all ages- new public health evidence suggests impacts are greatest in children and young adults as well as the older generation.
- an increase in harmful behaviours including smoking prevalence in adults, problematic drinking, and a rise above the national average for emergency hospital admission rate for intentional self-harm.
- a deterioration in workplace health with the mental health charity Mind (2021) estimating that nationally 1 in 6 workers are experiencing depression, anxiety, or stress.
- some reductions in physical activity, with subsequent implications for level of obesity and diabetes, from many people working from home and less opportunities to participate in exercise

- the pandemic has tended to exacerbate existing health inequalities, with people from Black ethnic groups most likely to be diagnosed and death rates from COVID-19 highest among people of Black and Asian ethnic groups.
- more pressures on carers and the clinically vulnerable – with 84,500 unpaid carers in West Sussex and a recent estimate of those termed Critically Extremely Vulnerable by the Government and NHS during the pandemic of 4,500 individuals in Mid Sussex.
- the need to ensure that people are accessing clinical health and preventative services for all health-related problems.

## Health Service Access

The last point is particularly important in considering the legacy from the pandemic in the levels of reductions in health service contact across both primary and secondary care, which is likely to manifest itself later as an increased number of preventable deaths. Many planned hospital appointments were cancelled during the pandemic with over an 80% reduction in non-elective admissions. There is also some evidence that patients stayed away from general practice and there has been a shift from face to face to telephone consultations. In addition, there has also been a reduction in preventative activity in the health service, e.g., pausing screening programmes and reductions in dementia diagnosis rates. Referrals to mental health services have dropped. In some instances, this may have been due to changes in circumstances, for example fewer patients seen through educational referrals, because of school closures.

Pressures on GP surgeries make the expansion of services such as social prescribing even more important. It has been estimated that around 20% of patients consult their GP for what is primarily a social problem and access to non-clinical resources to enable patients to improve their health and wellbeing can free up GP time to focus on patient healthcare.

## Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Sussex

West Sussex County Council have undertaken a Study in October 2021 “**Rapid Review of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Sussex.**” Overall, the report found that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing and the demand for mental health and health wellbeing services. Social isolation, loneliness, school closures, increased stress due to the economic impact of lockdown measures especially on low earning households contribute to a negative impact on mental health. Evidence suggests that the pandemic has hit the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups hardest, thus exacerbating longstanding inequalities.

Evidence from Children and Young People Surveys found that:

- In 2021 approximately 37,150 children aged 6-16 were estimated to have a mental disorder in Sussex, constituting an increase of more than 25% on 2017/18.
- The percentage of children and young people with possible eating problems increased between 2017 and 2021, from 6.7% to 13.0% in 11–16-year-olds and from 44.6% to 58.2% in 17–19-year-olds.
- In 2021 an estimated 46,000 11–19-year-olds have a possible eating problem in Sussex.
- In 2020/21, 5,851 primary and secondary school pupils were identified with social, emotional, and mental health needs (3,063 primary school age and 2,788 secondary school age) across the three local authorities in Sussex.

In terms of the impact on services across Sussex:

- There has been a 32% rise in average monthly referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and a 34% increase in the number of people waiting for CAMHS services (2,410 in March 21 compared with 1,805 in March 2020).
- People waiting for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) assessment and for Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) have increased by 43%; with an additional 778 children in the 15 months to June 2021.
- There has also been an increase in referrals for children and young people with eating disorders, with an overall increase of 77.1% in 2020/21 compared with 19/20.
- All three local authorities in Sussex are below the national targets for percentage of children and young people with eating disorders seen within one week and within four weeks as of December 2020.
- Mental Health A&E attendances for 0 - 17-year-olds in Sussex increased by 14% (Apr-Aug 21) compared to the same period in 2019 (pre-Covid-19 baseline).

The report determines that a focus on preventative and early intervention services and addressing the social determinants of mental health is key to address the increase in demand, especially support in schools and other educational settings. Additionally, tackling the fragmentation of children and young people's mental health services by bringing services together across the entire system is essential to meet the increased demand and to reduce inequalities.

## NHS Reducing Health Inequalities

As mentioned previously, the pandemic has tended to exacerbate existing health inequalities. An important context for this area of work is **Core20PLUS5** – An approach to reducing health inequalities, produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) in December 2021. This is the NHS contribution to a wider system effort by Local Authorities, communities and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to tackling healthcare inequalities and aims to complement and enhance existing work in this area.

The **Core20** refers to the most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the national Index of Multiple Deprivation and considers the social determinants of health. The **Plus** element identifies population groups experiencing poorer than average health access, experience and or outcomes. These include ethnic minority communities, people with multi-morbidities, protected characteristic groups, people experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system, victims of modern slavery and other socially excluded groups.

There are five clinical areas of focus. Governance for these five focus areas sits with national programmes; national and regional teams coordinate local systems to achieve national aims.

1. **Maternity:** ensuring continuity of care for 75% of women from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and from the most deprived groups.
2. **Severe mental illness (SMI):** ensuring annual health checks for 60% of those living with SMI (bringing SMI in line with the success seen in learning disabilities).
3. **Chronic respiratory disease:** a clear focus on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) driving up uptake of COVID, flu and pneumonia vaccines to reduce infective exacerbations and emergency hospital admissions due to those exacerbations.

4. **Early cancer diagnosis:** 75% of cases diagnosed at stage 1 or 2 by 2028.

5. **Hypertension case-finding:** to allow for interventions to optimise blood pressure and minimise the risk of myocardial infarction and stroke.

## Dementia

Responding to growing numbers of older people with dementia has been a priority for the Health Subgroup. Current estimates are that there are 2,270 older people with dementia in Mid Sussex, predicted to rise to 3,500 by 2030. Wards estimated to have the highest dementia prevalence of the population aged 65+ in Mid Sussex are Hassocks and Lindfield.

West Sussex County Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have produced a West Sussex [Joint Dementia Strategy](#) for the period 2020–23 building on the Dementia Framework 2014–19. The strategy sets out commitments to tackling dementia and provides a framework for further action based around the five elements of the Dementia Well pathway. Dementia Friendly Communities in Mid Sussex have had input to the Strategy.

